Ukraine border crisis
U.S. intelligence says Russia planned to stage pretext for invasion. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

Fighting gun violence
Biden says federal government will step up fight against gun violence. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

Bipartisan election effort
Democrats, Republicans work to update the Electoral Count Act. **NEWS, PAGE 5**

An icy mess
Rain, freezing rain, possible sleet; high of 38. **SPORTS, PAGE 6**

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Home, vehicle values swell

Soaring assessments across state could mean higher taxes

By Jesse Leavenworth and Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Motor vehicle values across Connecticut have skyrocketed as heavy demand and short supply continues. Communities that completed a real estate revaluation last year also are seeing land and building values, particularly residential properties, increase significantly.

Motor vehicle values in Manchester rose by about $91.6 million, or 24.7%, over the previous year, according to the recently released 2021 grand list of taxable property.

Across the state, the median increase in vehicle values was 25.7%, according to town assessment and collection director John Rainaldi, a member of the Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers' motor vehicle committee.

It's likely that Manchester vehicle owners will pay more taxes for those cars and trucks, Rainaldi said, but the tax rate will not be set for a few more months.

Soaring car values were a key factor in Windsor's 3.24% townwide property value increase. Real estate values rose 3.25%, while motor vehicle assessments jumped 27.8%, offsetting the 8% drop in personal property assessments, town Assessor Lawrence LaBarbera reported.

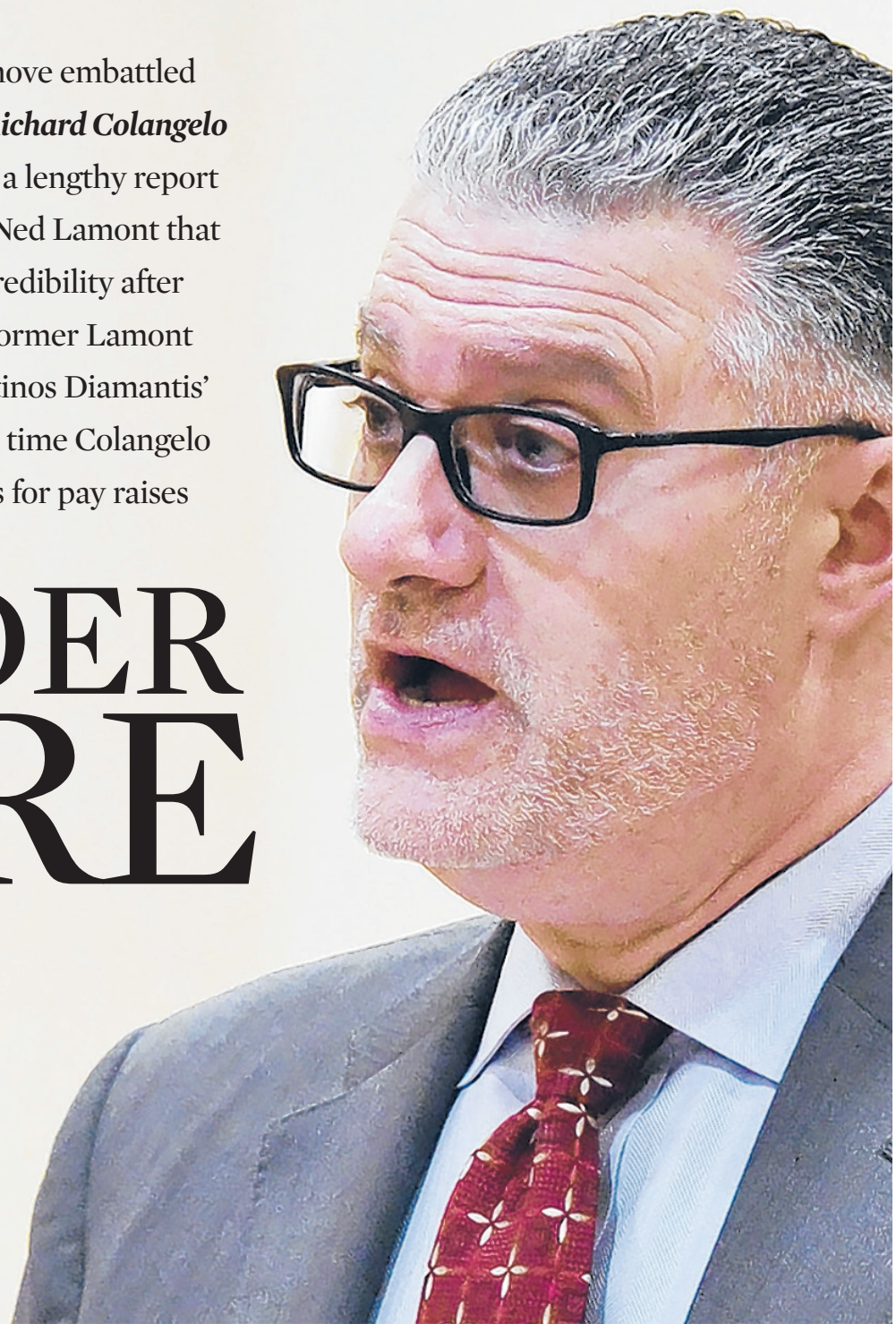
In Southington, the motor vehicle grand list increased by over 25%. The number of vehicles on the list rose by 1.6% and used vehicle values "actually appreciated," the town's director of revenue, Teresa Babon, wrote in a memo.

West Hartford's motor vehicle list increased by $115,934,401, or 24.9%. A press release included some national statistics: in September 2019, there were 3.5 million new cars available for sale in the U.S. versus September 2021, when the count had dropped to 915,809 new vehicles for sale; a

Turn to Values, *Page 3*

Pressure mounts to remove embattled ***Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo*** following the release of a lengthy report commissioned by Gov. Ned Lamont that questions Colangelo's credibility after a controversial hire of former Lamont budget officer Konstantinos Diamantis' daughter — at the same time Colangelo was lobbying Diamantis for pay raises

UNDER FIRE



TYLER SIZEMORE/AP

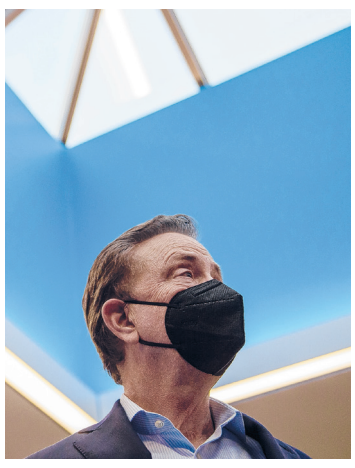
By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

Gov. Ned Lamont blasted the state's chief prosecutor Thursday for alleged "ethical malfeasance" and called for his dismissal, a day after a report commissioned by the governor's office questioned his credibility about a patronage appointment and it was disclosed that a federal grand jury has subpoenaed state spending records in related matters.

"When it comes to [Richard] Colangelo, I don't hire him," Lamont said at a press event in Farmington. "I don't fire him. But if I did he'd be gone."

"I have zero tolerance for this type of ethical malfeasance," the governor said, "I'm appalled and outraged at the breach of public faith. I want to hear from them (commissioners) exactly what we're doing hiring and holding people accountable."

Lamont was referring to the state Criminal Justice Commission, which is empowered to hire and fire Colangelo, who, as the appointed Chief State's Attorney, supervises the prosecutors in the state Division of Criminal Justice. The commission was established as a quasi-independent agency in the hope of insulating criminal prosecutions from political influence.



MARK MIRKO/COURANT

"When it comes to Colangelo, I don't hire him. I don't fire him. But if I did he'd be gone."

Gov. Ned Lamont

The commission appointed Colangelo in February 2020 and on Thursday was under growing pressure to remove him.

That pressure comes from a lengthy report commissioned by Lamont that questions Colangelo's credibility in explaining how he came to hire the daughter of politically influential, former Lamont budget officer Konstantinos Diamantis — at the same time Colangelo was lobbying Diamantis for what would have amounted to pay raises for himself and his senior staff.

Supreme Court Justice Andrew McDonald, chairman of the Criminal Justice Commission, questioned Thursday whether Colangelo can continue as the state's top prosecutor in light of the questions raised in the report.

"The findings in the report are quite startling and raise profoundly serious questions about whether the Chief State's Attorney can continue to discharge the duties of the constitutional office" he holds, McDonald said.

"No Chief State's Attorney has ever been

Turn to Colangelo, *Page 3*

Biden: IS leader dies amid raid

Commando team targeted hideout in northwestern Syria

By Ghaith Alsayed, Lolita C. Baldor and Bassem Mroue
Associated Press

U.S. officials said the leader of the Islamic State group killed himself with a bomb in this house in Syria. **AAREF WATAD/GETTY-AFP**

ATMEH, Syria — The leader of the violent Islamic State group died in a U.S. military raid Thursday, blowing himself up along with members of his family as American special operations forces assaulted his hideout in northwestern Syria, President Joe Biden said.

It was the second time in less than three years that the U.S. took out a leader of the group that at the height of its power controlled more than 40,000 square miles stretching from Syria to Iraq and ruled over 8 million people.

U.S. officials called the operation a "significant blow" to the organization, which has been trying for a resurgence with attacks in the region, including an assault late last month to seize a prison in northeast Syria holding at least 3,000 IS detainees.

The raid targeted Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, who took over as head of the militant group on Oct. 31, 2019, just days after leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi died during a U.S. raid. Al-Qurayshi, unlike his predecessor, was far from a household name, a secretive man who presided over a far diminished version of the group and didn't appear in public.

Biden said al-Qurayshi died as

Turn to Raid, *Page 2*

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Lamont hints school mask mandate might end soon

State's health experts say science is clear — now is not the time

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Connecticut's recent decline in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations has renewed a debate about the value of the state's requirement that all students wear masks in schools.

Some parents and lawmakers have pressed Gov. Ned Lamont to end the mandate, while other parents, as well as many teachers and other school employees, have lobbied to maintain it — a position shared by several prominent local health experts.

Lamont said Thursday he will decide in the next few days whether to lift the mandate, saying the state is in "a very different situation than what we faced a couple of years ago."

At a state Board of Education meeting Wednesday, board members heard passionate appeals from both sides of the masking debate.

"I don't know how you're going to sit here and mandate things on our children when that's not your job," said Jamie Bailey, a parent from Seymour. "These are our children, and it is our choice."

Kate Dias, a math teacher in Manchester and president of the Connecticut Education Association, spoke in favor of the mandate, noting that Connecticut continues to see high levels of COVID-19 spread.

"No one would be happier to say this is over than a group of teachers, but alas it is not over," Dias said. "I ask you to think about where teachers are at,

Turn to Masks, *Page 3*

State's Big Brothers Big Sisters programs merge
Connecticut's Big Brothers Big Sisters programs have merged, and leaders seek to surpass the number of children served before the pandemic curbed referrals. **CONNECTICUT, PAGE 1**

Opinion.....News, 10
Obits.....News, 12
Lottery.....News, 2
Classified.....News, 11
Puzzles ... Connecticut, 7, 9
Comics ... Connecticut, 8-9

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FROM PAGE ONE

Raid

from Page 1

al-Baghdadi did, by exploding a bomb that killed himself and members of his family, including women and children, as U.S. forces approached.

"Thanks to the bravery of our troops this horrible terrorist leader is no more," Biden said at the White House. He said al-Qurayshi had been responsible for the prison assault, as well as genocide against the Yazidi people in Iraq in 2014.

About 50 U.S. special operations forces landed in helicopters and attacked a house in a rebel-held corner of Syria, clashing for two hours with gunmen, witnesses said.

Residents described continuous gunfire and explosions that jolted the town of Atmeh near the Turkish border, an area dotted with camps for internally displaced people from Syria's civil war.

Biden said he ordered U.S. forces to "take every precaution available to minimize civilian casualties," the reason they did not conduct an airstrike on the home.

First responders reported that 13 people had been killed, including six children and four women.

Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said U.S. forces were able to evacuate 10 people from the building: a man, a woman and four children from the first floor and four children from the second floor. He said when al-Qurayshi detonated the bomb, he also killed his wife and two children. Kirby said that U.S. officials were working to determine whether American action resulted in any civilian deaths.

There were no U.S. casualties, Kirby said. U.S. forces took fingerprints and DNA, which confirmed al-Qurayshi's death, he said.

Biden, along with Vice President Kamala Harris and senior national security aides monitored a live-feed of the operation from the White House Situation Room according to an official. In December, a tabletop model of the three-floor house had been brought to the high-security room.

Red tape is extended around the Syrian house where an Islamic State leader died amid an overnight raid by U.S. special forces on Thursday. **ABDULAZIZ KETAZ/GETTY-AFP**

The raid marked a military success for the United States at an important time after setbacks elsewhere — including the chaotic Afghanistan withdrawal — had led allies and opponents to conclude U.S. power globally was weakening.

The house, surrounded by olive trees in fields outside Atmeh, was left with its top floor shattered and blood spattered inside. A journalist on assignment for The Associated Press, and several residents, said they saw body parts scattered near the site. Most residents spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Idlib is largely controlled by Turkish-backed fighters but is also an al-Qaida stronghold and home to several of its top operatives. Other militants, including extremists from the rival IS group, have also found refuge in the region.

"The first moments were terrifying; no one knew what was happening," said Jamil el-Deddo, a resident of a nearby refugee camp. "We were worried it could be Syrian aircraft, which brought back memories of barrel bombs that used to be dropped on us," he added, referring to explosives-filled containers used by President Bashar Assad's forces against opponents during the Syrian conflict.

The top floor of the low house was nearly destroyed, sending white bricks tumbling to the ground below.

A wrecked bedroom had a child's wooden crib and a stuffed rabbit doll. On one damaged wall, a blue plastic baby swing was still hanging. Religious books, including a biography of Islam's Prophet Mohammad, were in the house.

U.S. officials said al-Qurayshi never left his apartment except to bathe on the building's roof. It is difficult to gauge how his death will affect the group.

U.S. officials claimed he was directly overseeing operations in Syria, including last month's attack on the prison.

"They're leaderless today, and that's a significant blow," Kirby said. "This not something we believe ISIS is going to be able to get over real quickly or real easily."

The second floor of the house was occupied by a lower-ranking Islamic State leader and his family, but the first floor contained civilians who were unconnected to the terrorist group and unaware of al-Qurayshi's presence, according to U.S. officials, who described them as unwitting human shields.

Biden gave "the final go" on the mission on Tuesday morning.

In the first stages of the operation, residents and activists said, U.S. commandos staged a large ground assault, using megaphones urging women and children to leave the area.

Much to the relief of U.S. officials, the family on the first floor exited unharmed.

The IS lieutenant, who officials did not name, who lived on the second floor barricaded himself inside along with his wife and engaged in combat with the commandos who entered the home after the explosion. After a firefight, in which both were killed, officials said four children were removed from the second floor alive by U.S. forces. Kirby said it appeared that a child on the second floor died, though the circumstances were not clear.

The special operations forces spent about two hours on the ground, longer than usual for such an operation — indicative, U.S. officials said, of caution to minimize civilian casualties.

Another firefight erupted with a local extremist group with ""hostile" intent, Kirby said. Two people were killed outside the house and "their compadres left," he said.

U.S. troops launched the airborne raid from a base in the region, but officials would not specify the precise location due to operational security concerns. They added that the U.S. "deconflicted" the operation with "a range of entities" but did not specify whether those included Russia, which has supported the Assad government in Syria.

Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command and the commander of the operation, said the mission goal was to capture al-Qurayshi. He said the blast set off by the IS leader was larger than would have been expected from a suicide vest, and that al-Qurayshi's body was found on the ground outside the building, thrown from the third floor by the force of the blast.

There was no comment from the Syrian government, which rarely acknowledges or comments on attacks by foreign countries targeting areas outside its control.

A U.S. official said one of the helicopters in the raid suffered a mechanical problem and was redirected to a site nearby, where it was destroyed.

Through slickly engineered propaganda, including brutal beheading videos, IS emerged as a dominant global extremist threat in the past decade. Its clarion call to followers in the West to either join its self-described caliphate in Syria, or to commit acts of violence at home, inspired killings in the U.S. as well as thousands of travelers determined to become foreign fighters.

Last month's attack on the prison in Hasaka marked the group's biggest military operation since it was defeated and its members scattered underground in 2019. The attack appeared aimed to break free senior IS operatives in the prison.

It took 10 days of fighting for U.S.-backed, Kurdish-led forces to retake the prison fully, and the force said more than 120 of its fighters and prison workers were killed along with 374 militants.

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LOTTERY

Thursday, Feb. 3

PLAY3 DAY
2 2 5 **WB:** 9

PLAY4 DAY
8 8 6 3 **WB:** 9

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT
0 2 4 **WB:** 3

PLAY4 NIGHT
8 5 8 4 **WB:** 3

CASH 5
13 16 19 33 35

LUCKY FOR LIFE
3 5 11 32 40 **LB:** 16

POWERBALL
18 29 33 62 63 **PB:** 15 **PP:** 3

Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot: $1.2M

Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot: $22M

Saturday's est. Powerball jackpot: $137M

Official Approved Notice from U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Connecticut

Sexual Abuse and General Claims in The Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut Bankruptcy

The Norwich Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation, a/k/a the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich ("Diocese" or "Debtor") has filed bankruptcy in order to restructure its nonprofit organization. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against the Diocese and provides information about the case, *In re The Norwich Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation* (Bankr. D. Conn.). This notice is a short summary.

Who Should File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

Anyone who was sexually abused, on or before July 15, 2021, and believes the Diocese may be responsible for the sexual abuse must file a claim. This includes sexual abuse in connection with any entity or activity associated with the Diocese. Sexual Abuse Claims include but are not limited to: sexual misconduct, touching, inappropriate contact, or sexual comments about a person or other behaviors that led to abuse, and regardless of whether you thought the behavior was sexual abuse or not.

When Should I File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred, you need to file your claim so that it is received by 5 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 15, 2022.

If you do not file a timely Sexual Abuse Claim, you may lose rights against the Diocese and against Diocese Related Entities, including any right to compensation.

Your information will be kept private. For a list of names of clergy that have been identified in connection with sexual abuse claims, go to https://www.norwichdiocese.org/Find/Accused-Clergy. For more information on the bankruptcy case, go to https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn or call 1-855-654-0902.

The Sexual Abuse Bar Date of March 15, 2022 is not subject to further extension, even if there is a change in the applicable statute of limitations. You should consider submitting a proof of claim even if you believe your claim may be subject to an affirmative defense such as a statute of limitations.

When Should I File a General Bar Date Claim?

If you have a non-sexual abuse claim, you will need to file so that it is received by 5 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 15, 2022. More information is available at https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn.

ACT NOW Before Time Runs Out:

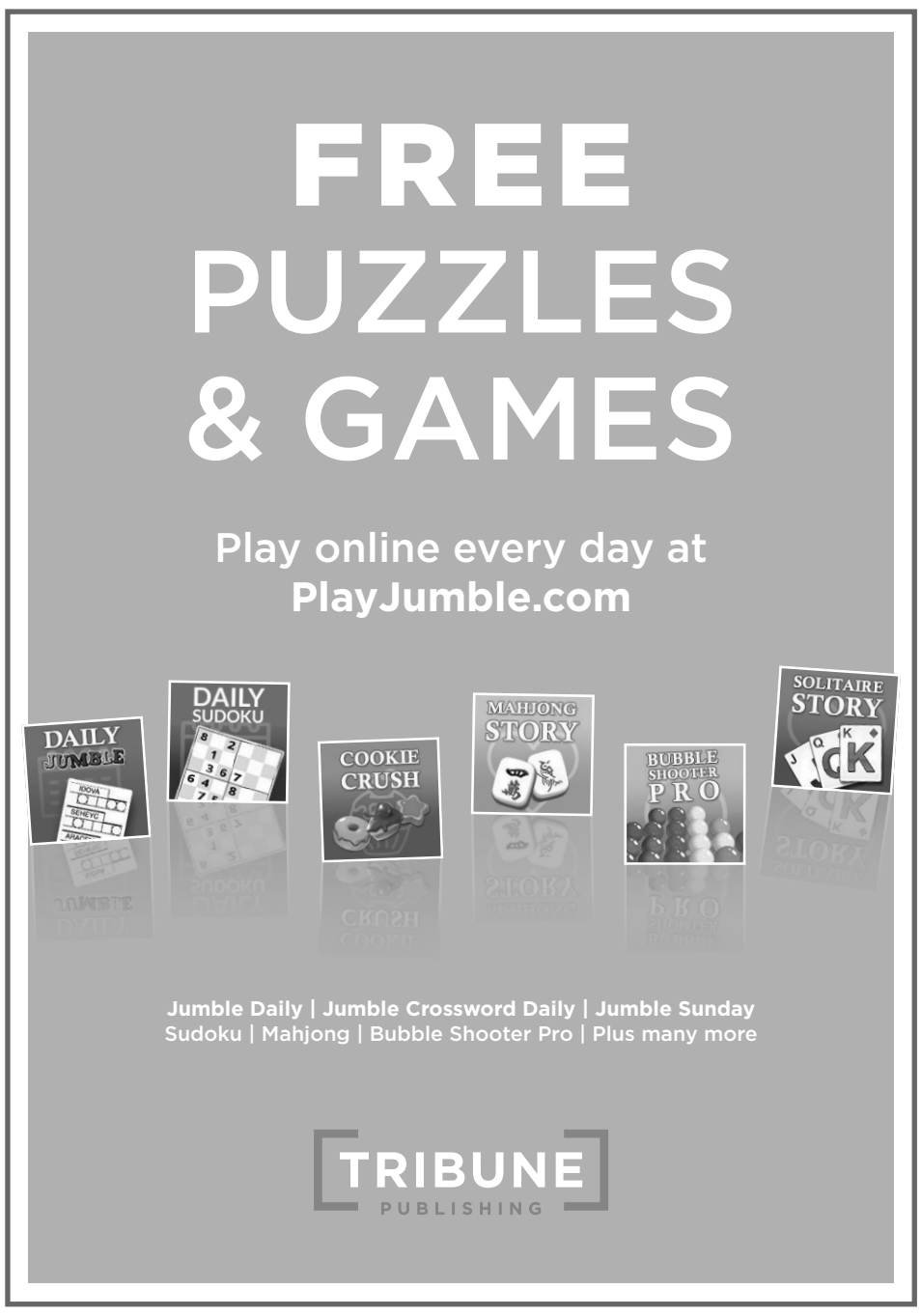
You can download and file a claim at the website or call the toll-free number listed below for help on how to file a claim by mail.

File a Proof of Claim.

Have questions? Call or visit the website for more information.

If your claim is approved, you may receive compensation from the bankruptcy.

https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn **1-855-654-0902**



FROM PAGE ONE

Values

from Page 1

74% drop in inventory.

Used car prices nationwide have jumped to an average of about $30,000, the result of a domino effect in the supply chain after semi-conductor and auto makers shut down to stop the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, auto trade media have reported.

"Dealerships with no new cars to sell suddenly didn't have traded-in cars to resell or offer for auction, either," Motortrend reported recently. "Nor did rental car companies have old, retiring vehicles to offer ... This meant the supply of used cars shrunk so drastically that basic economics took over, pushing the in-demand vehicles' prices higher."

The used car market is expected to cool as a more normal pattern of depreciation returns later this year, according to Jonathan Smoke, chief economist for Cox Automotive, which owns Kelley Blue Book, the car marketplace Autotrader, and Manheim Auctions, the country's biggest wholesaler of used vehicles

"Barring economic catastrophe, however, we won't see a return to pre-pandemic levels in used-vehicle values," Smoke wrote in recent report.

Real estate values also are up on town grand lists, especially in Manchester and other municipalities that in 2021 conducted the once-every-five-years revaluation mandated by the state (motor vehicles and personal property are assessed annually).

Manchester's recently released October 2021 grand list showed overall real estate values up by about $624.8 million, or 18.43%, over the previous year. Values of single- to four-family properties and condominiums rose by 26.96% due to revaluation. Industrial property values were up 13.46%, while apartment values rose by 10.99%. Other commercial properties values, primarily retail, were down 1.56%.

Last year's home buying frenzy spotlighted Connecticut's strongest residential real estate market in a decade. Three times — in February, March and July — the Hartford metro area drew national attention for its stunning drop in inventory of homes for sale in countrywide rankings of hot markets by real estate giant RE/MAX.

The hot market began in 2020, touched off by the pandemic. Activity was driven in part by buyers fleeing urban areas such as New York City and Boston after gaining new freedom in the remote workplace. But buyers already in the state also sought more space as they settled into remote working and schooling. As the pandemic dragged on through the year, some large corporate employers in the Hartford area moved to make working from home permanent for some employees.

In a non-revaluation year, Manchester's real estate values likely would have risen by only about 1% due to additions, renovations and new construction, Rainaldi said.

But while values are way up because of revaluation, the tax rate will decrease, he said.

The main purpose of a revaluation is to correct inequalities in the tax burden that developed since the last revaluation. Most revaluations shift the tax burden between commercial and residential real estate, along with shifts within those categories.

West Hartford, which also had a revaluation last year, reported Tuesday that the grand list was up by 12.2% over the previous year. The real property list increased by $644,835,827, or 11.2%, which officials said was mostly attributable to revaluation and continuation of new construction projects, such as those at 71 Waterside Lane, 180 Wood Pond Road, 511 Mountain Road, 11 Griswold Drive, 111 Marion Avenue and two new homes at Gledhill Estates.

Southington's overall tax base rose by 3.38%, which would bring in an extra $4.3 million in new taxes this year even if the tax rate stays the same.

"This year saw a continuation of last year's trend whereby very little commercial and industrial development was completed," revenue director Babon wrote, and much of the increase in residential real estate values came through home improvements, not new construction.

"In what appears to be a response to the COVID pandemic, we have noticed a marked increase in pools, patios, decks and hot tubs being installed," she wrote. "Finished basements have also appeared to be a popular home improvement project during the past 18 months."

The overall grand list increase in Canton was 2.69%, and that, too, was largely a factor of higher vehicle values, Chief Administrative Officer Robert Skinner said. Real estate values actually dropped by nearly 1%, but that was more than offset by a 9.1% climb in personal property assessments and a 28.3% jump in car values.

"The largest driver in the motor vehicle increase is the average 26% increase to used vehicles," Assessor Kerri Kazlauskas wrote.

Suffield hasn't fully completed its calculations, but First Selectman Colin Moll said the town expects an overall increase of about 2.75%.

"The motor vehicles percentage is expected to be just over 25 percent due to the current values of used motor vehicles," Moll said.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

Masks

from Page 1

sitting in spaces of primarily unvaccinated individuals in poorly ventilated areas, doing the very best that they can to get through an unprecedented situation."

Lamont, for his part, has said he's open to letting towns make their own decisions on masks in schools as COVID-19 metrics improve but that he's not ready to do so yet. With the governor's emergency powers expiring on Feb. 15, the state legislature will soon have to decide whether to extend the mask mandate.

Masking in schools is one of 11 pandemic-related executive orders Lamont has asked the legislature to continue after his emergency powers end.

Gov. Ned Lamont has said he's open to letting towns make their own decisions on masks in schools as COVID-19 metrics improve but that he's not ready to do so yet. With the governor's emergency powers expiring Feb. 15, the state legislature will soon have to decide whether to extend the mask mandate. **CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

Health experts in Connecticut have generally advocated for masking a while longer. Dr. Ulysses Wu, chief epidemiologist at Hartford HealthCare, said Thursday that while he recognizes the need to consider factors beyond disease control alone, he considers the science of masking fairly clear.

"This is a respiratory disease, and the best way to prevent it is to not be in the presence of another human being or, when you are, to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status and symptoms," he said.

Dr. Tom Balcezak, chief clinical officer at Yale New Haven Health, said he understands why Lamont may be weighing an end to the mask mandate but that he doesn't think it's time yet.

"What might be motivating the governor is that there are ways that you can unmask safely," Balcezak said. "If the kids and the teachers are vaccinated, if you can spread out, if there's ventilation, if you have good sensing systems to shut things down if there are cases, it's possible.

"I think right now, though, we still have too much community transmission."

Connecticut students have been required to wear masks in schools throughout the pandemic, as nearly all other COVID-19 control measures have lapsed.

Masks and other pandemic measures are likely to be a subject of debate at the upcoming legislative session, which begins next week. House Republican leader Vincent Candelora of North Branford, a longtime Lamont critic, said Thursday that the school mask mandate should end immediately.

"I hear anecdotally about our children falling behind in school," Candelora said. "They're behind in reading. They're behind in phonics. They're missing social cues. They can't be heard under their masks in a classroom."

But in addition to parents and students frustrated with the mask requirement, lawmakers will also likely hear from teachers and other school employees who view it as essential. In a statement this week, a coalition of Connecticut unions said they support extending the mandate.

"We have remained among the safest states throughout this pandemic because elected leaders have heeded the call to 'follow the science,' " AFT Connecticut President Jan Hochadel said. "There is no sound reason to veer off course now and put the health and safety of our members and their students at greater risk."

Courant staff writers Christopher Keating, Stephen Singer and Eliza Fawcett contributed to this report.

Colangelo

from Page 1

removed, so I have asked the Attorney General's office to advise the commission on the full extent of the due process that would need to be observed in any removal hearing," McDonald said. "At a minimum, the statute that dictates that process (General Statute Sec. 51-278b) would require the commission to level formal charges against him, issue a summons to him, and conduct a hearing to show cause why he should not be removed from office

"At such a hearing, he could be represented by counsel and call witnesses in his defense. We are in the process of organizing a special meeting of the commission to receive the full extent of the advice of the Attorney General," McDonald said.

Colangelo was silent Thursday about his plans.

His lawyer, former federal prosecutor James Glasser, said Colangelo "has dedicated his entire professional career to the fair and just administration of the state's criminal laws" and was following the lead of his predecessor by trying to correct long-standing inequities in the salary structure at the Division of Criminal Justice when he began pressing budget officials to increase the salaries of senior prosecutors.

The salary structure, in some cases, pays junior prosecutors more than their bosses.

"With the benefit of hindsight, Mr. Colangelo should have been more sensitive to issues relating to the appearance of a conflict of interest when making hiring decisions," Glasser said. "But the simple truth is Mr. Colangelo was motivated only by his interest in fixing an unbalanced pay scale for the benefit of his employees, the State, and the people of Connecticut; he did absolutely nothing improper when trying to right that past wrong. Mr. Colangelo is a dedicated career prosecutor who is well-regarded by his colleagues, judges and the defense bar. It is truly unfortunate that his motives are now being impugned and his actions questioned."

Minutes before releasing the highly critical report on Colangelo on Wednesday, the Lamont administration acknowledged that the U.S. Attorney's office had empaneled a grand jury to investigate two major state spending programs formerly under Diamantis' control — a state pier refurbishment in New London and the state program that finances school construction.

The timing of the disclosure of the grand jury investigation left it overwhelmed by the report about Colangelo.

After being served a grand jury subpoena on Oct. 20, the Lamont administration sacked Diamantis on Oct, 28 as deputy secretary of the Office of Policy and Management — the state budget agency — without giving his boss, Secretary Melissa McCaw, advance notice. The reason for the dismissal was unspecified "alleged misconduct." On Dec. 15, Lamont hired former U.S. Attorney Stanley A. Twardy Jr. to look into Colangelo's decision to hire Anastasia Diamantis.

Twardy's team questioned 18 people — some, like Colangelo, repeatedly — in an effort to clarify the circumstances of Anastasia Diamantis' hiring and Colangelo's 18-month campaign to correct what he called a salary "anomaly" — a correction Twardy said would have meant salary increases for himself, his two top deputies and the 13 state's attorneys.

In the report that Lamont disclosed Tuesday, Twardy bluntly questions whether Colangelo was credible in his account of how he happened to meet Anastasia Diamantis at a social event, how he immediately offered her a job and how she came to be hired. Other witnesses questioned by Twardy disputed Colangelo's account.

"Based on the available evidence, we do not find credible the largely consistent accounts of Mr. Colangelo, Anastasia, and Mr. Diamantis concerning how Mr. Colangelo and Anastasia first met. Our conclusion that those individuals lack credibility concerning the straightforward question of how Mr. Colangelo and Anastasia first met casts doubt on the integrity of the circumstances surrounding Anastasia's hiring with the Division," the report says.

Twardy devotes much of his report to email exchanges associated with Colangelo's effort to rectify the pay structure that left some senior prosecutors paid less than those they supervised.

In one such instance, Twardy said that Colangelo emailed Diamantis on May, 27, 2020, asking for a meeting, just minutes after one of his many rebuffs by the budget officials he was lobbying. Diamantis replied, "sure tomorrow." Colangelo thanked Diamantis, but when questioned by Twardy's team, Colangelo could not recall speaking to Diamantis and Diamantis "did not recall meeting with Mr. Colangelo around that date."

Less than a week after the meeting date that neither could recall, Colangelo emailed Diamantis descriptions of two jobs that involved the procurement of government grants.

Within hours, Diamantis forwarded that email to his daughter, asking "thoughts?" When questioned by Twardy's team, Anastasia Diamantis said she disregarded that email because she was not qualified for positions involving grants.

According to Twardy's report: "Both Mr. Colangelo and Mr. Diamantis stated they did not discuss a potential job for Anastasia. Mr. Diamantis also said that he never discussed job opportunities with Anastasia. When asked why he sent Mr. Colangelo's email with job postings to Anastasia, he said he did not know and that he could have been asking her 'thoughts' about anything, even something entirely unrelated to the job postings ... Mr. Colangelo could not explain how Mr. Diamantis knew to forward the job descriptions to Anastasia if the two had never discussed a job for Anastasia. On June 9, 2020, Anastasia emailed Mr. Colangelo a copy of her resume, stating "per your request."

Colangelo said in an interview with the Courant last month that Anastasia Diamantis' job responsibilities involve "grant reporting."

Twardy's report also questions Colangelo's account of how he met Anastasia Diamantis — Colangelo said it was at an outdoor happy hour event, billed as a "Greek Night," at Cava Restaurant in Southington

Colangelo told Twardy he met Anastasia Diamantis at the Greek Night prior to offering her a job and hiring her, and that it was the impression she made at the event that led him to make the job offer. But other attendees at two Greek Night events contradicted Colangelo's account. Twardy said the contradictory accounts combined with other facts persuaded him that Colangelo offered Anastasia Diamantis a job before meeting her.

"The available evidence compels our conclusion that the Cava event described as the initial meeting between Mr. Colangelo and Anastasia took place after Anastasia was interviewed and hired for the Executive Assistant position with the Division," the report said. "Based on our investigation, we determined that there were two events at Cava in the summer of 2020 that comport with the foregoing accounts of Mr. Colangelo, Anastasia, and Mr. Diamantis. The first event was on Monday, June 22, 2020 and the second event was on Monday, Aug. 3, 2020 — both after Anastasia sent her resume to Mr. Colangelo on June 9, 2020."

Twardy also reported finding discrepancies in accounts by Colangelo and Anastasia Diamantis about a part-time job she had when she was hired by the Chief State's Attorney's office — a job she kept until October, when her hiring by Colangelo was disclosed by Courant columnist Kevin Rennie. The part-time job was with Construction Advocacy Professionals, a firm that, among other things, advises municipalities building schools with state financing approved by her father.

Twardy reports that, "According to Anastasia, the owner of CAP called her out of the blue and offered her the job. She called CAP, a Rhode Island company located in eastern Connecticut, but then admitted that she did work on school projects in Connecticut for CAP."

"According to Anastasia, her part-time employment with CAP ended in approximately October 2021 because of news articles questioning the circumstances surrounding her hiring by the Division," Twardy reports. "According to Anastasia, CAP's owner terminated her employment because she did not want CAP named in unfavorable press articles."

Anastasia Diamantis said she told Colangelo about her part-time job, but could not recall whether it was at her interview or after he hired her. She said Colangelo told her the job was not a problem and that many others in his office had part-time jobs, according to Twardy's report.

In contrast, Colangelo told Twardy that Anastasia Diamantis never informed him about or discussed the part-time job.

Colangelo said he learned of the job from the "Connecticut State Police in around late July or early August 2021," according to Twardy's report.

"Mr. Colangelo stated that someone from the Connecticut State Police called to tell him that a former CAP employee was making threats against CAP employees, including Anastasia," according to Twardy's report. "Mr. Colangelo did not recall who from the Connecticut State Police contacted him to relay this information. When asked about the nature of the threats, Mr. Colangelo stated that the individual with the Connecticut State Police did not specify and he did not ask for specifics."

According to Twardy, Colangelo said it was his impression "that the Connecticut State Police were not worried." But at the same time, Colangelo said he believed the state police were alerting him because detectives thought it possible that the former CAP employee might appear at the Chief State's Attorney's Office in Rocky Hill.

Colangelo does not recall asking the state police for the name of the employee who allegedly made threats, not did he take any action to advise his staff or Anastasia Diamantis, according to Twardy's report.

Reporter Stephen Singer contributed to this story.

WORLD&NATION
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US: Russia plotting invasion pretext

Plan includes faked video of Ukrainians carrying out attack

By Julian E. Barnes
The New York Times

Ukrainian soldiers man the front line Thursday in Schastia, Ukraine, near the Russian border. **TYLER HICKS/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

WASHINGTON — The United States has acquired intelligence about a Russian plan to fabricate a pretext for an invasion of Ukraine using a faked video that would build on recent disinformation campaigns, according to senior administration officials and others briefed on the material.

The plan, which the United States hopes to spoil by making public, involves staging and filming a fabricated attack by the Ukrainian military either on Russian territory or against Russian-speaking people in eastern Ukraine.

Russia, the officials said, intended to use the video to accuse Ukraine of "genocide." It would then use the outrage over the video to justify an attack or have separatist leaders in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine invite a Russian intervention.

Officials would not release any direct evidence of the Russian plan or how they learned of it, saying to do so would compromise their sources and methods. But both a recent Russian disinformation campaign focused on false accusations of genocide and the recent political actions being taken in the Russian parliament to recognize breakaway governments in Ukraine lent credence to the intelligence.

If carried out, the Russian operation would be an expansion of a propaganda theme that U.S. intelligence officials and outside experts have said Moscow has been pushing on social media, conspiracy sites and with state-controlled media since November.

The video was intended to be elaborate, officials said, with plans for graphic images of the staged, corpse-strewn aftermath of an explosion and footage of destroyed locations. They said the video was also set to include faked Ukrainian military equipment, Turkish-made drones and actors playing Russian-speaking mourners.

American officials would not say who in Russia precisely was planning the operation, but a senior administration official said Russian intelligence was "intimately involved" in the effort. A British government official said they had done their own analysis of the intelligence and had high confidence that Russia was planning to engineer a pretext to blame Ukraine for an attack.

While it is not clear that senior Russian officials approved the operation, it was far along in the planning, and the United States had high confidence that it was under serious consideration, officials said.

The highlights of the intelligence have been declassified in hopes of both derailing the plot and convincing allies of the seriousness of the Russian planning. The officials interviewed for this article requested anonymity to discuss declassified but sensitive intelligence before it was released publicly.

Avril Haines, the director of national intelligence, and other top administration officials briefed members of Congress on the material Thursday. Details of the information have also been shared with allies as the United States and Britain push a kind of intelligence diplomacy.

In recent weeks both Washington and London have outlined elements of Moscow's war planning, highlighting planned troop buildups, exposing false-flag sabotage plots and revealing Russian plans to install a friendly government in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the recent work by the United States and Britain to publicize plots was an important development.

"By forewarning, it diminishes the Russian credibility and ability to use something like that as an excuse," Warner said.

The move to publicize the plan comes as the Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, begins to consider legislation to recognize eastern Ukraine as an independent territory, much as Moscow has recognized Russian-occupied areas of Georgia.

If the Russian parliament were to recognize the Donbas region of Ukraine as an independent state, a Moscow-appointed leader of that breakaway state could then request help from Putin.

Putin has argued many times that in such a case, an intervention would be in keeping with international law and precedents set by the United States.

American officials believe the plans for the video included Turkish-made Bayraktar TB2 drones that have been used by the Ukrainian army.

Russian disinformation in recent weeks has falsely accused NATO of planning an invasion of Ukraine or an intervention there. Highlighting the presence of weapons made by Turkey, a NATO ally, would allow the Russians to accuse the alliance of raising tensions in the conflict.

The draft law under consideration in Russia would recognize what Moscow calls the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics. Russia considered recognizing governments in the separatist-controlled region in 2014 but backed down.

The proposal was revived by members of the Communist Party, the second-largest faction in the Duma, in recent days. The Russian parliamentarians pushing the law have argued that Ukraine is planning an offensive to reassert control of the area. If that happens, the lawmakers argue, Russian-speaking residents will be denied basic rights.

Biden pledges to step up fight against gun deaths

Communities must unite to make 'us all safer,' he says in NYC

By Josh Boak, Colleen Long and Michelle L. Price
Associated Press

President Joe Biden greets staffers of a community group during an event about strategies to prevent gun violence Thursday in the Queens borough of New York City. **ALEX BRANDON/AP**

NEW YORK — Running through a grim tally of recent gun deaths, President Joe Biden pledged to New Yorkers and the nation Thursday that the federal government would step up its fight against gun violence by working more closely with police and communities to stop the surging bloodshed.

"It's enough. Enough is enough," Biden told police, law enforcement officials and lawmakers gathered at the city's police headquarters. "We can do something about this."

But Biden's strategy relies heavily on buy-in from state and local officials as he suggests ways to spend federal dollars and expands on initiatives already underway. The modest initiatives demonstrate the limits to what he can do when there is no appetite in Congress to pass gun legislation.

Biden came to New York a day after the funeral for the second of two New York City officers shot and killed during a domestic violence call Jan. 21. Officials wrapped up the event to get to the hospital, where another officer was being released after an injury in another shooting.

The visit gave Biden a chance to push back against Republicans who claim he's soft on crime, and to distance himself from those in the left flank of his Democratic Party who want to shift funding away from police departments to social spending programs.

"The answer is not to defund the police," Biden said. "It is to give you the tools, the training, the funding to be partners, to be protectors and know the community."

Biden ticked through how 316 people are shot every day and 106 killed, including 26 children who died in gun violence this year. Thirty-two officers have been shot in the line of duty this year nationwide, seven of them killed.

Biden is navigating complex politics: He's working to find ways to combat crime while also pushing for greater accountability after high-profile killings of Black people by police.

"The answer is not to abandon our streets," Biden said. "The answer is to come together, policing communities, building trust and making us all safer."

Most of the talk Thursday was centered on better policing.

Biden also called on Congress to pass a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. But he also spoke of the gun lobby that has been effective at curbing any effort to rein in guns and that points to the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

"There's no amendment that's absolute," Biden insisted. "When the amendment was passed, it didn't say anybody can own a gun — any kind of gun — and any kind of weapon."

Biden was joined by New York lawmakers, Attorney General Merrick Garland, Gov. Kathy Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams, a former police captain.

Biden listened in on a gun violence strategic partnership meeting, a daily get-together for local, state and federal leaders who share intelligence and information on specific cases. He then headed to a school in Queens borough of the city to hear from a front-line violence intervention community group about efforts to prevent violence.

Guns are at the center of the debate as the nation grapples with homicides that spiked nationally in 2020, the final year of the Trump administration. Even before the spike, 75% of all homicides in the country were due to firearm injuries and guns were responsible for 91% of youth homicides, according to a January report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control on gun violence and suicides over 2018-19.

This comes as Americans purchased a record number of firearms in 2020.

Law enforcement officers recovered historically high numbers of firearms last year and are coming across more firearms stripped of serial numbers, making them impossible to trace.

To combat this, the Biden administration is clamping down more on traders of "ghost guns," homemade firearms that lack serial numbers used to trace them and that are often purchased without a background check.

The Justice Department is working to stop the movement of guns north along the "iron pipeline" on the Interstate 95 corridor from Southern states with lax gun laws. Federal prosecutors will prioritize cases of those who sell or transfer guns used in violent crime and, if Biden's budget is enacted, get specific agents dedicated to the effort.

Biden has also proposed an increase in dollars for local community policing programs, and if his social spending agenda were to pass, more funds would be made available — but that effort is stalled in Congress too.

Study explores how chewing sugarless gum may prevent early birth

By Laura Ungar
Associated Press

Healthy mouth, healthy baby? For years, scientists have been exploring the link between poor oral health and giving birth too early.

Now, new research presented Thursday raises the possibility that something simple and inexpensive might make a difference: chewing sugarless gum.

The improvements seen in the study in the African country of Malawi were modest: The rates of premature birth were slightly lower in the pregnant women who chewed the gum, compared with those who didn't.

Still, experts welcome the idea of an easy way to attack this huge and costly problem. While gum is cheap, an early birth can lead to a host of health problems in babies and tens of thousands of dollars in medical costs.

"If we could find an intervention as simple as chewing gum to stop preterm births, I would be absolutely elated," said Dr. Zsakeba Henderson with the March of Dimes, adding that she's "guardedly optimistic" about the findings.

For many years, studies have shown that gum diseases are tied to premature birth. Scientists believe bacterial infections in the mouth can increase inflammation in the body, which could lead to early birth.

Researchers tested whether chewing gum made with the sweetener xylitol could help. Xylitol is a sugar substitute found in small amounts in fruits and vegetables. It has been shown in past research to gradually change the makeup of bacteria in the mouth so that fewer decay-causing bacteria survive on tooth surfaces and less plaque forms. Plaque buildup can lead to gum disease.

The study in Malawi enrolled more than 10,000 women over six years. Some joined before they got pregnant, others in the first half of their pregnancy. At four centers, participants received oral health education and chewed the gum twice daily. At four others, a control group received only the education.

There was a lower rate of preterm births before 37 weeks in the group that chewed xylitol gum: 13% compared with 17% in the control group.

The biggest difference was in "late" preterm births between 34 and nearly 37 weeks. Though giving birth earlier is potentially worse for the baby, experts say late preterm infants are at risk for such things as respiratory problems, feeding difficulties and developmental issues.

Researchers don't know how the xylitol may prevent preterm birth, but they believe it has "prebiotic" properties, meaning it stimulates the growth of healthy bacteria in the mouth.

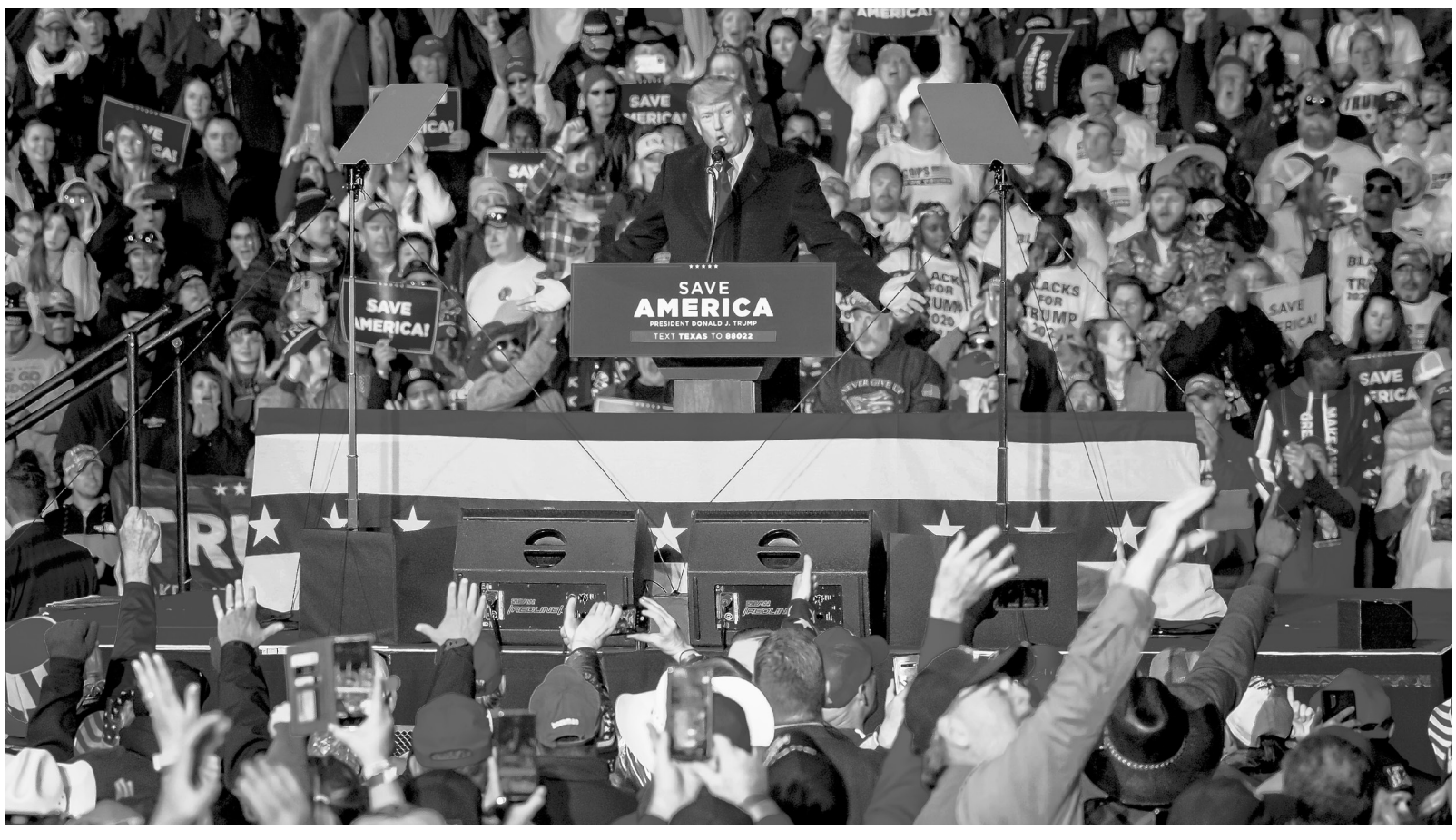
Xylitol is also used in candies, foods and dental products such as toothpaste.

WORLD & NATION

Congress eyes update to 'flawed' law

Lawmakers revisit Electoral Count Act to counter Trump

By Lisa Mascaro and Farnoush Amiri
Associated Press



At a recent rally in Texas, former President Donald Trump dangled pardons for Jan. 6 rioters — provided he's elected again. MERIDITH KOHUT/THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's relentless, false claims about the 2020 presidential election have sparked fresh urgency in Congress — and in both parties — for changing the Electoral Count Act to ensure no one can undo a future presidential election.

Lawmakers are working furiously to update the 135-year-old law that came perilously close to unraveling on Jan. 6, 2021. At that time, the defeated president urged his followers to "fight like hell" over the election and pressured Vice President Mike Pence to ditch his ceremonial role presiding over the session and reject the results.

While Pence ignored the president's demands that day, Trump recently insisted the vice president "could have overturned the election" — a deeply troubling development as the former president considers another White House run.

"President Trump's comments underscored the need for us to revise the Electoral Count Act, because they demonstrated the confusion in the law and the fact that it is ambiguous," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine.

The outcome of the bipartisan effort in Congress remains highly fluid, and could easily collapse, especially as Republicans are wary of crossing Trump and Democrats seek broader changes after their own sweeping elections and voting legislation fell apart last month. Any update to the 19th century law would likely face the filibuster's 60-vote threshold in the Senate, meaning the legislation would need bipartisan support in the evenly split chamber to advance.

Yet the effort to change the Electoral Count Act has been gaining political currency. The urgency has continued to rise over the past year as the former president and his allies have led a steady drumbeat in state legislatures, working to install sympathetic leaders in local election posts and, in some cases, backing political candidates who participated in the riot at the Capitol.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday that he's open to the effort, as he also rejected the idea Trump floated at a weekend rally of pardoning people who have been criminally charged in the deadly riot at the Capitol.

"What we saw here on January the 6th was an effort to prevent the peaceful transfer of power from one administration to another," McConnell said.

The Kentucky Republican went on to say the Electoral Count Act "is flawed and it needs to be fixed."

A bipartisan group led by Collins has been meeting behind closed doors and hopes to present a draft as soon as this week.

Senators are delving into potential changes to Electoral Count Act with ideas that would make it more difficult to challenge results. They are also considering ways to protect election workers, who are being harassed nationwide, and funding for election assistance and voting equipment. Some 16 senators, Republicans and Democrats, are working swiftly, with the blessing of party leaders, much the way they did last year to produce the $1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill President Joe Biden signed into law.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., said that after Trump used the word "overturn" in describing his effort to challenge the election, "This does create a sense of urgency to get this done."

And while for many Democrats, including Kaine, the effort to change the Electoral Count Act is not a substitute for their own failed voting rights package, it does represent the opportunity for a potential legislative success, if not the starting point of further discussions.

The growing sense of urgency for electoral count changes boiled over this past weekend when Trump made arguably his most clear admission that he wanted Pence to overturn the election results when he presided over the joint session of Congress.

Republicans who rejected the Democrats' broader Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act as too broad see value in shoring up the more distinct Electoral Count Act system to prevent Trump or any other person who may seek to challenge it.

"I don't agree that Vice President Pence had that authority, but if that's an argument that some people find convincing, then I think that it's appropriate that Congress clarify the law," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

The bipartisan group is not operating in a vacuum.

Democracy groups for years have warned that the Electoral Count Act, which emerged after the disputed 1876 election that resulted in the withdrawal of troops stationed in the South to uphold laws ending slavery, needs an update.

Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, has been working on changes to the Electoral Count Act since last spring, in the aftermath of the Capitol riot, assembling experts and sharing ideas with senators of both parties.

On Tuesday, King, along with Rules Committee Chairman Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., and Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., the Judiciary Committee chairman, unveiled their draft proposal and shared it with the bipartisan group headed by Collins. Their proposal includes clarifying that the vice president has "no role" in counting the votes and shifting from the vice president to a senior senator the ceremonial role of presiding over the tally.

Of Trump's comment, King said, "It underlines why we have to get this done."

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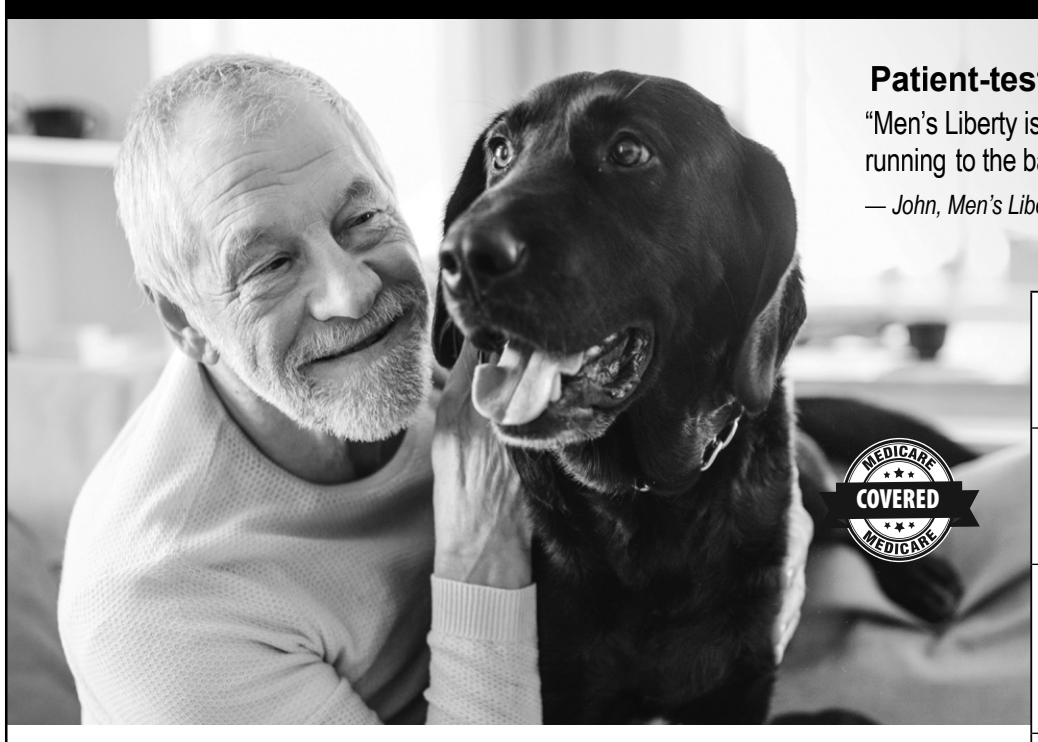

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'We don't know what will happen'

US farmer still held in Ukraine jail amid tense Russia crisis

By Eric Tucker
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When Kurt Groszhans set out from North Dakota for Ukraine in 2017, he was eager to connect with his family's ancestral homeland and to farm the rich, black soil.

But his farming venture with a law professor who's now a high-ranking Ukrainian government official soon collapsed in acrimony, culminating in his arrest last November on charges of plotting to assassinate his former business partner. His family and supporters say the accusations are bogus and designed to silence Groszhans' claims of corruption in Ukraine — a country pulled between Russian and Western interests and straining to shed its reputation for graft and cronyism.

The case is unfolding as Ukraine braces for a potential Russian invasion and as the U.S. has ordered the families of American personnel at the U.S. Embassy there to evacuate. The upheaval has Groszhan's family afraid that the North Dakota farmer could be left behind.

"We're terrified for my brother's well-being right now, especially everything that you're hearing in the news with the Russian troops on the border," said his sister, Kristi Magnusson. With fears an invasion could force the evacuation of U.S. diplomatic staff, she called on the Biden administration and the State Department to "use their leverage" to get him home.

"If the embassy is not there to check on him and make sure that he's doing OK, we don't know what will happen," she added.

Asked for comment, the State Department said the administration took seriously its responsibility to help detained Americans and was closely following the case, but declined to comment further.

Republican Sen. Kevin Cramer of North Dakota, who recently visited Groszhans at the detention center, said the episode has "created friction between at least me and them, if not our two governments, that should be alleviated" at a time when U.S. and Ukrainian interests should be aligned in countering the threat from Moscow.

Groszhans, 50, of Ashley, North Dakota, traveled in 2017 to Ukraine, where his ancestors are from. The chance to work the country's coveted black earth was a "dream come true," and he invested a large sum to get a farming operation up and running, his sister said.

In a country with a prized agricultural sector, Groszhans was proud of his work, she said, sending photos of his crops to family members.

Once there, he connected with a law professor, Roman Leshchenko, who offered himself up as a native speaker with knowledge of the local farming business and regulatory requirements.

Grozhans named him the director of his company.

Things fell apart quickly.

Groszhans has alleged in a lawsuit and in an internet post that Leshchenko began embezzling money from him, defrauding him of over $250,000 in total and transferring funds to a family company. Groszhans has been vocal about his allegations, describing himself in a post in August as a "humble" but deceived investor.

"Probably, I am not the first or the last American investor who made a mistake in the person hired as a manager. But the personality of this manager makes my case unique," he wrote.

Kurt Groszhans, a farmer from North Dakota seen in one of his fields in Ukraine, is in jail on charges of plotting to assassinate his former business partner. **KRISTI MAGNUSSON 2021**

Leshchenko declined to comment, but he has denied the embezzlement claims in interviews with the Ukrainian media and has insisted that the men had agreed that Leshchenko's company would run the farming business.

He's leveled his own accusations against Groszhans, alleging that the American farmer planted genetically modified soybean that is banned from cultivation and sales in Ukraine and it was that discovery that prompted Leshchenko to resign from the company and was the source of their dispute.

"The circumstances of this criminal proceedings must be verified as part of the pretrial investigation conducted by the National Police and only on the basis of the results of which, after the relevant facts and their evidence have been clarified and established, the prosecutor's office can make appropriate procedural decisions," said Tetyana Kozachenko, a lawyer for Leshchenko.

Ukrainian media that began looking into the conflict reported that Leshchenko had used some of the funds for a roughly $60,000 contribution to the 2019 campaign of current Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who later named Leshchenko the government's minister of agrarian policy and food.

The Associated Press was unable to independently confirm the contribution. Zelenskyy's office did not respond to a request for comment.

Amid controversy about the contribution, Leshchenko was interviewed by the Kyiv Post last year. The article said the $60,000 donation came from Leshchenko's dying father. Leshchenko said he and his father saw Zelenskyy "as the only person who wants to change Ukraine, bring structural reforms."

Magnusson says Leshchenko ultimately did return some money to her brother, but also threatened to have him arrested if he didn't stop talking publicly about his fraud accusations.

In November, Groszhans was arrested along with his assistant on charges of plotting to assassinate Leshchenko, allegations that Groszhans' supporters say are fabricated but may have arisen from Groszhans' hiring of a private investigator to dig into Leshchenko as part of his litigation.

The arrest, his family and supporters believe, was a pretext for silencing his allegations, particularly in a country that has sought to shore up diplomatic and military support from the U.S. through reassurances it is making a serious effort to curb corruption.

"My brother has never in all of his 50 years of life ... been in trouble with the law," Magnusson said. "And we don't believe any of this can be true because why would you want to assassinate somebody if you're trying to collect money back that is legally owed to you?"

His supporters are asking the Biden administration to formally designate him a wrongful detainee, a classification that would allow for his case to be reassigned to the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs at the State Department.

But his family fears the window for attention to Groszhans' case may be limited, given the potential for an incursion by Russia and the dwindling diplomatic presence by the United States.

"It just makes us more and more concerned for him and for his safety to know that these people could be leaving and Kurt is forgotten about, and he's left behind," Magnusson said.

Adam Basch pulls Lim Walthall on his sled Thursday in Indianapolis. Forecasters are calling for heavy ice buildup from Texas up to Pennsylvania. **DARRON CUMMINGS/AP**

Ice buildup a concern as US continues to weather storm

By Kathleen Foody and Jill Bleed
Associated Press

CHICAGO — More than 200,000 homes and businesses lost power across the country Thursday as power companies struggled to keep pace with freezing rain and snow that weighed down tree limbs and encrusted power lines, part of a multiday winter storm that dumped more than a foot of snow in parts of the Midwest and triggered weather warnings from Texas to the Northeast.

Storm conditions caused headaches for travelers across the country as airlines canceled thousands of flights scheduled for Thursday or Friday. At Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, authorities shut down all runways Thursday morning and reported more than 1,000 canceled flights.

The highest totals of power outages blamed on icy or downed power lines were concentrated in Arkansas, Texas, Tennessee and Ohio, but the path of the storm stretched further from the central U.S. into the South and Northeast on Thursday.

Heavy snow was expected from the southern Rockies to northern New England, while forecasters said heavy ice buildup was likely from Texas to Pennsylvania.

Parts of Ohio, New York and northern New England were expected to see heavy snowfall as the storm moves to the east with 12 to 18 inches of snow possible in some places through Friday, the National Weather Service said.

Along the warmer side of the storm, strong thunderstorms capable of damaging wind gusts and tornadoes were possible Thursday in parts of Mississippi and Alabama, the Storm Prediction Center said.

In western Alabama, several homes were damaged and people were injured and trapped following an apparent tornado in rural Hale County, Emergency Management Director Russell Weeden told WBMA-TV. The National Weather Service issued several tornado warnings in the region as a line of storms moved through.

More than 20 inches of snow was reported in the southern Rockies, while more than a foot of snow fell in areas of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.

The flight-tracking service FlightAware.com showed more than 6,000 flights in the U.S. scheduled for Thursday or Friday had been canceled, on top of more than 2,000 cancellations Wednesday as the storm began.

Tennessee had the highest number of reported power outages by midday, particularly in Memphis and surrounding areas in western Tennessee.

In Texas, the return of subfreezing weather brought heightened anxiety nearly a year after February 2021's catastrophic freeze that buckled the state's power grid for days, leading to hundreds of deaths in one of the worst blackouts in U.S. history.

Facing a new test of Texas' grid, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott said it was holding up and on track to be able to get through the storm. Texas had about 70,000 outages by Thursday morning, but Abbott and local officials said that was due to high winds or icy and downed transmission lines.

Lawyers' memos show roots of Trump's elector strategy

By Alan Feuer, Maggie Haberman and Luke Broadwater
The New York Times

Fifteen days after Election Day in 2020, James Troupis, a lawyer for the Trump campaign in Wisconsin, received a memo setting out what became the rationale for an audacious strategy: to put in place alternate slates of electors in states where President Donald Trump was trying to overturn his loss.

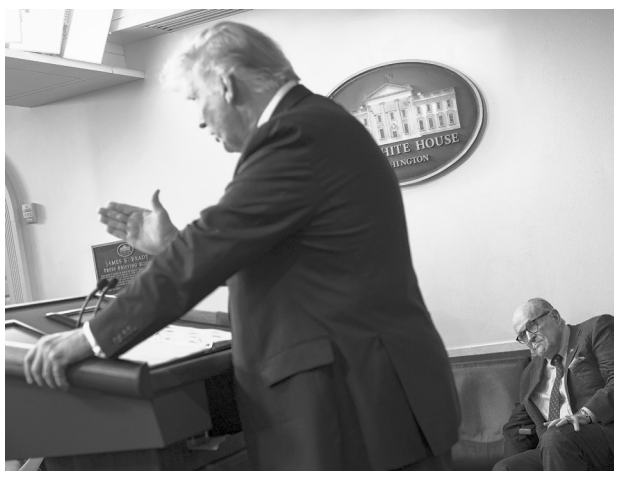
The memo from lawyer Kenneth Chesebro may not have been the first time lawyers and allies of Trump had weighed the possibility of naming their own electors in the hopes that they might eventually succeed in flipping the outcome in battleground states through recounts and lawsuits baselessly asserting widespread fraud.

But the Nov. 18 memo and another three weeks later are among the earliest known efforts to put on paper proposals for preparing alternate electors. They helped to shape a crucial strategy that Trump would embrace.

The memos show how just over two weeks after Election Day, Trump's campaign was seeking to buy more time to undo the results.

At the heart of the strategy was the idea that the real deadline was not Dec. 14, when official electors would be chosen to reflect the outcome in each state, but Jan. 6, when Congress would meet to certify the results.

And in that focus on Jan. 6 lay the seeds of what became a pressure campaign on Vice President Mike Pence to accept the validity of a challenge to the outcome and to block Congress from finalizing Joe Biden's victory — a campaign that would also lead to a violent assault on the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters.



President Donald Trump and his then-personal attorney Rudy Giuliani appear at a White House press briefing weeks ahead of the 2020 election. **AL DRAGO/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

"It may seem odd that the electors pledged to Trump and Pence might meet and cast their votes on Dec. 14 even if, at that juncture, the Trump-Pence ticket is behind in the vote count, and no certificate of election has been issued in favor of Trump and Pence," the Nov. 18 memo said. "However, a fair reading of the federal statutes suggests that this is a reasonable course of action."

Federal prosecutors and the House committee investigating the events of Jan. 6 have recently confirmed that they are examining the effort to submit alternate slates of electors to the Electoral College.

The two memos, obtained by The New York Times, were used by Trump's top lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, and others like John Eastman as they developed a strategy intended to exploit ambiguities in the Electoral Count Act, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The memos were initially meant to address Trump's challenge to the outcome in Wisconsin, but they ultimately became part of a broader conversation by members of Trump's legal team as the president looked toward Jan. 6 and began to exert pressure on Pence to hold up certification of the Electoral College count.

Neither Troupis nor Chesebro responded to requests for comment.

The language and suggestions in the memos from Chesebro to Troupis closely echo tactics and talking points that were eventually adopted by Trump's top lawyers.

The November memo, for example, called Jan. 6 the "hard deadline" for settling the results of the election and advised that the Trump campaign had nearly two months for "judicial proceedings" to challenge the outcome. It also suggested that Trump-friendly electors in Wisconsin needed to meet in Madison, the state capital, on Dec. 14, 2020, the day the Electoral College would be voting.

The second memo was dated Dec. 9, 2020, and expanded on the plan. It set forth an analysis of how to legally authorize alternate electors. It noted that the scheme was "unproblematic" in Arizona and Wisconsin, "slightly problematic" in Michigan, "somewhat dicey" in Georgia and Pennsylvania, and "very problematic" in Nevada.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Palin resumes libel battle with NY Times after COVID-19 illness

From news services

NEW YORK — Sarah Palin's libel lawsuit against The New York Times went to trial Thursday in a case over the former Alaska governor's claims that the newspaper damaged her reputation with an editorial linking her campaign rhetoric to a mass shooting.

Palin, a onetime Republican vice presidential nominee, told journalists as she arrived at the courthouse that she was looking for "Justice for people who expect truth in the media."

A lawyer for The Times, David Axelrod, told jurors the editorial was about gun laws, not Palin, and was not a "political hit job."

Opening statements to the jury were initially scheduled for last week, but were postponed when Palin tested positive for COVID-19.

Palin attorney Shane Vogt asked jurors in his opening statement to put aside any personal opinions they might have about his cleint's politics.

"We come to this case with our eyes wide open and keenly aware of the fact we're fighting an uphill battle," Vogt said. "Give us a fair shot."

Palin, 57, is seeking unspecified damages.

Axelrod acknowledged the newspaper made a factual mistake in the editorial, but said it was not malicious and the paper "acted as quickly as possible to correct that mistake."

Palin sued the Times in 2017, accusing it of damaging her career as a political commentator with an editorial about gun control published after U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise, a Louisiana Republican, was wounded when a man with a history of anti-GOP activity opened fire on a congressional baseball team practice in Washington.

In the editorial, the Times wrote that before the 2011 mass shooting in Arizona that severely wounded former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords and killed six others, Palin's political action committee had contributed to an atmosphere of violence by circulating a map of electoral districts that put Giffords and 19 other Democrats under stylized crosshairs.

In a correction two days later, The Times said the editorial had "incorrectly stated that a link existed between political rhetoric and the 2011 shooting" and that it had "incorrectly described" the map.

Spring awakening: Children walk past idols of the Hindu goddess Saraswati on Thursday at a roadside stall in Kolkata, India. Saraswati is revered as the goddess of knowledge, music, arts and science. She is worshipped on Vasant Panchami day, which is scheduled for Saturday. The festival on that day marks the preparation for the arrival of spring. **BIKAS DAS/AP**

EU migration reform: European Union interior ministers Thursday agreed to create a new decision-making body amid efforts to beef up the 27-nation bloc's borders, and to kick-start desperately needed reforms to the EU's malfunctioning asylum system on a step-by-step basis.

The EU has been mired in a political crisis since well over 1 million people, many of them refugees fleeing war in Syria, began entering in 2015. Greece was overwhelmed by migrants landing on its islands on rafts and dinghies from Turkey. Other countries were slow or reluctant to help.

The old asylum system, based on the notion that the country where migrants first arrive must deal with them, collapsed. New reform proposals have failed to determine who should take responsibility and what kind of help other countries should provide.

France, which holds the EU's rotating presidency, is trying to reenergize the sweeping reform plan by tackling parts of it at a time.

The first step will consist in setting up a mechanism to support EU nations where migrants first arrive. The so-called solidarity principle will be mandatory, French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said.

It will mean EU nations will have to accept taking asylum seekers or to provide financial support, he added.

Avenatti-Daniels trial: The jury deliberating the fate of Michael Avenatti on criminal charges that he ripped off his star client, Stormy Daniels, said Thursday that it was deadlocked on the first of two counts but forged ahead at the urging of the judge.

A note sent to U.S. District Judge Jesse Furman on the second day of deliberations said jurors were "unable to come to a consensus" on the first of two counts against Avenatti and asked "What are our next steps?"

Furman — after noting that deliberations had only last about four hours — instructed the jury to keep trying. About three hours later, a second note asked for a transcript of Daniels' entire testimony and a clarification on the legal definition of "good faith."

Count one is a wire fraud charge. The jury has been instructed to consider a second count, aggravated identity theft, only if it convicts on the first.

During the two-week trial, prosecutors said the lawyer cheated Daniels of nearly $300,000 she was owed for her autobiography, spending it on his firm's payroll and personal expenses. Avenatti argued in closing arguments that he was acting in good faith, believing he was owed the money.

Brexit: Northern Ireland's First Minister resigned Thursday as tensions over Britain's departure from the European Union triggered a fresh political crisis.

Paul Givan stepped aside after one of his ministers tried to block the inspection of goods arriving from other parts of the U.K. — a move that violates the Brexit agreement between Britain and the European Union.

The Brexit deal is roiling Northern Ireland again because of disagreements over language designed to keep trade flowing on the island of Ireland. Under the so-called Northern Ireland protocol, the U.K. agreed to inspect some goods entering Northern Ireland from England, Scotland and Wales.

That angered many in Northern Ireland because it creates a barrier between the region and other parts of the U.K.

Waffle House shooting: A man who shot and killed four people in 2018 at a Waffle House in Nashville, Tenn., had written Oprah Winfrey asking for help in determining whether his delusions that Taylor Swift was communicating with him through the internet were real or not, according to testimony Wednesday.

Metro Nashville Police Detective Desmond Sumerel told jurors that the letter to Winfrey and another to Swift were found in a safe that was recovered from Travis Reinking's apartment. The letter to Winfrey had been returned to sender in 2017. The letter to Swift was not in an envelope.

Reinking, 33, is charged with four counts of first-degree murder, along with attempted murder and weapons charges. He has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity.

Tesla recall: Tesla is recalling more than 817,000 vehicles in the U.S. because the seat belt reminder chimes may not sound when the vehicles are started and the driver hasn't buckled up.

The recall covers the 2021 and 2022 Model S sedan and Model X SUV, as well as the 2017 through 2022 Model 3 sedan and 2020 through 2022 Model Y SUV, according to documents posted Thursday by safety regulators.

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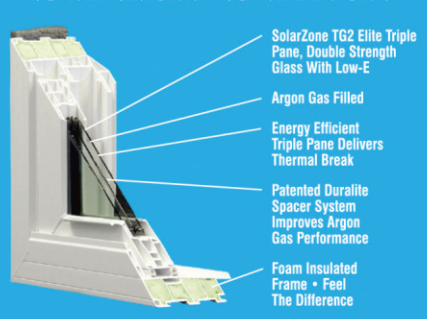

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BUSINESS

Likely poor jobs report may be temporary hiccup

Experts expect a quick rebound in hiring after dip due to omicron infections

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Last month, U.S. employers might have shed jobs for the first time in about a year, potentially raising alarms about the economy's trajectory.

Yet even if the January employment report coming Friday were to show a deep loss of jobs, there would be little mystery about the likely culprit: A wave of omicron infections last month that led millions of workers to stay home sick, discouraged consumers from venturing out to spend and likely froze hiring at many companies — even those that want to fill jobs.

Reported omicron infections peaked at above 800,000 a day during the second week of January — precisely when the government measured employment for the month.

A dismal jobs report would be a stark reminder that nearly two years after it began, the pandemic retains a tight grip on the economy.

Still, most economists expect a relatively quick rebound in hiring, possibly as soon as this month. Nationally, reported omicron infections are tumbling. And many businesses are desperate to hire: The number of job openings in late December reached nearly 11 million, just below a record set in July.

"Investors, policymakers and firm managers should essentially just write off the (January jobs) report as a one-time set of noise that will not alter the underlying strong trend in hiring and the tight labor market," said Joe Brusuelas, chief economist at RSM, a tax advisory firm.

Economists have collectively forecast that the government will report a slight gain of 175,000 jobs for January.

But some analysts, including those at Goldman Sachs, Oxford Economics and PNC Financial, have said they expect the report to show a loss of up to several hundred thousand positions.

Last month, a survey by the Census Bureau found that nearly 8.8 million people didn't work in early January because they were either sick with COVID-19 or had to care for someone who was. That was more than triple the corresponding number in early December. A majority of those workers likely benefit from employer-paid sick leave, and their staying home would not have affected the job count.

But about one-fifth of workers — particularly lower-paid service employees, who are most likely to contract the virus — have no paid leave.

If they missed a full pay period for sickness, their jobs would be counted as lost for the month, even though they were still employed. That would shrink the government's job count for January.

The Labor Department uses a different method to calculate the monthly unemployment rate. With this method, even workers who were home sick during last month would be counted as employed if they have a job to return to.

The differences in the ways the numbers are calculated account for why even economists who expect a large job loss for January also expect the unemployment rate to stay at 3.9% or perhaps even decline slightly.

Michael Thibodeau manages Hotel Greene's restaurant reservations in Richmond, Virginia. **PARKER MICHELS-BOYCE/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Pulling the plug on diners

Restaurants hanging up their phone lines permanently for online communication

By Victoria Petersen
The New York Times

Harley Esposito was surprised when she couldn't find a phone number for Hotel Greene, a mini-golf, bar and restaurant space near her home in Richmond, Virginia. After going to Hotel Greene for a work event, she needed a copy of her receipt.

Looking through their website, Esposito, 30, saw a small note: "We do not have a phone line."

"I Googled them and didn't see a phone number listed, and I was like: 'Oh, that's weird,' " she said. "I was just surprised by it more than anything, because I've never seen it before. I was like: 'How do they expect people to get in touch with them?' "

Restaurants around the country are pulling the plug on their phone lines. Channeling all communication through emails, direct messages on social media and reservations apps might frustrate diners and deter those who are technology averse.

However, restaurants are finding that communicating this way frees up time for front-of-house employees, is more efficient for restaurant administrators and gives flexibility to restaurants operating with a small team or through COVID-19-related staffing shortages.

In its first month of business in the summer of 2019, Hotel Greene would get a stream of calls to the front desk asking about the wait for a table.

Jim Gottier, 67, co-owner of Hotel Greene, said that a host offering people wait times in advance can be fruitless since the waits can change in real time.

"It was just this constant barrage," said Gottier, adding, "to pay someone $15 an hour, or whatever, to do that is just outrageous."

For some restaurants, the decision to forgo the phone is an easy one.

The co-owners of the vegan Singaporean restaurant Lion Dance Cafe in Oakland, California, have never liked talking on the phone. After hosting pop-ups around the Bay Area for about a decade, C-Y Chia, 32, and Shane Stanbridge, 32, opened their cafe in September 2020, and for months they were the only employees.

"Since we were running around shopping and making all the food, it felt like also having to deal with picking up the phone would just be too much of a hindrance," Chia said. "It wasn't even a big decision for us."

To reach Lion Dance Cafe, people send emails or direct messages to its Instagram account, even though this can be discouraging for older potential customers, Chia said.

At Ugly Baby, a Thai restaurant in the Brooklyn borough of New York City, nearly all of the customers are millennials or younger, said Sirichai Sreparplarn, 52, the chef and a co-owner of the restaurant. You have to be on Instagram to reserve a table, see the menu or communicate with the restaurant.

"We just want to be a hole-in-the-wall restaurant," he said.

Still, there are plenty of restaurants that value a phone and a reservationist.

Lis Blount, 56, who does marketing and public relations for Antoine's Restaurant in New Orleans, said having a phone line is "really important," even though it is not the only way diners are making reservations these days.

"If I can get my customer on the phone and talk to them, there's nothing better," she said.

Available staff members at Antoine's have had to take turns answering calls when the reservationist was sick with COVID-19. Blount said it has been especially helpful during the pandemic to talk on the phone.

"I think the world right now has missed this human touch," she said.

FBI says it bought spyware from Israeli firm

By Frank Bajak and Eric Tucker
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI has confirmed purchasing NSO Group's powerful spyware tool Pegasus, whose chronic abuse to monitor journalists, dissidents and human rights activists has long been established. It suggested its motivation was to "stay abreast of emerging technologies and tradecraft."

The agency added in a statement Wednesday that it obtained a limited license from the Israeli firm "for product testing and evaluation only," never using it operationally or to support any investigation.

But critics wondered why the premier U.S. law enforcement agency would need to pay for access to a notorious surveillance tool that has been extensively researched by public interest cyber sleuths if its interest was so limited.

"Spending millions of dollars to line the pockets of a company that is widely known to serially facilitate widespread human rights abuses, possible criminal acts, and operations that threaten the U.S.'s own national security is definitely troubling," said Ron Deibert, director of Citizen Lab, the University of Toronto internet watchdog that has exposed dozens of Pegasus hacks since 2016.

"At the very least, this seems like a terribly counterproductive, irresponsible, and ill-conceived way" to keep abreast of surveillance tech, he added.

An FBI spokesperson did not say what the agency paid NSO Group or when, but The New York Times reported last week that it obtained a one-year license for $5 million, testing it in 2019. On Wednesday, The Guardian quoted a source familiar with the deal as saying the FBI paid $4 million to renew the license but never used the spyware, which infiltrates a target's smartphone, granting access to all its communications and location data and converting it into a remote eavesdropping device.

In November, the U.S. Commerce Department blacklisted NSO Group, barring it from access to U.S. technology. Apple subsequently sued the company, calling it "amoral 21st-century mercenaries."

Medicare to cover free COVID-19 home tests

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration, seeking to fill a frustrating gap in coverage for COVID-19 tests, announced Thursday that people with Medicare will be able to get free over-the-counter tests much more easily in the coming weeks.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services said Medicare will cover up to eight free tests per month, starting in early spring.

The tests will be handed out at participating pharmacies and other locations. They'll be available to people who have Medicare's "Part B" outpatient benefit, which about 9 in 10 enrollees sign up for.

Last month, the administration directed private insurers to cover up to eight free tests a month for people on their plans.

Officials said at the time they were still trying to figure out what to do about Medicare, which covers more than 60 million people, most of them age 65 or older and more vulnerable to severe illness from coronavirus infection. Officials said Thursday that this is the first time Medicare has covered an over-the-counter test at no cost to recipients.

People with Medicare Advantage, a private insurance option that covers about 4 in 10 Medicare enrollees, will also have access to free COVID-19 tests through their plans, officials said. Medicare Advantage plans can already cover over-the-counter COVID-19 tests as a supplemental benefit.

AARP, the advocacy group for older people, praised Medicare's decision and said it will closely follow the rollout.

The new policy focuses on so-called rapid tests, which provide at-home results in about 15 minutes. Medicare also will continue to cover the more precise lab-based PCR tests, but those must be ordered by a clinician or an authorized health care professional.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Vote: New union at Mexico plant

MEXICO CITY — Workers at a General Motors assembly plant in northern Mexico have voted for a new independent union to represent them after casting off a collective bargaining agreement negotiated by an old-guard union last year.

The vote Tuesday and Wednesday among the roughly 6,500 employees of GM transmission and pickup plants in the city of Silao was a major test of whether a measure of freedom has come to Mexican labor practices.

Workers chose the Independent Union of Auto Industry Workers by a wide margin.

For almost a century, Mexican unions have been largely a sham, with sold-out leaders guaranteeing low wages that drained manufacturing jobs out of the United States.

UK raises limit on energy prices

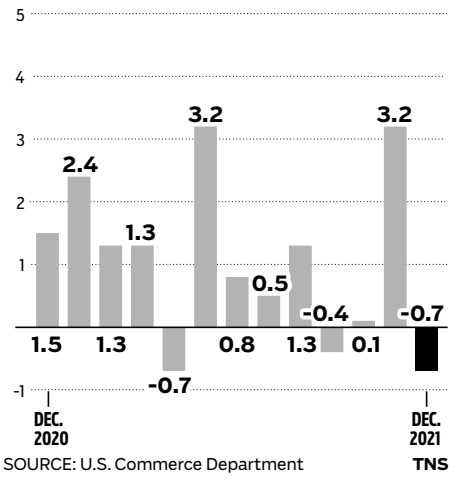
LONDON — Britain's energy regulator announced Thursday that a cap on energy prices is going up by a record 54% because of the soaring costs of wholesale natural gas, a change that will significantly burden millions of households already squeezed by rapidly climbing bills.

The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets said the new price cap — the maximum amount that gas suppliers can charge customers — will rise by $940 per year in most parts of the U.K. starting in April. That will cause the annual bill for the average customer to go up to $2,670.

The Treasury chief, Rishi Sunak, immediately announced a package of measures to help millions of people — including those on lower incomes — cope with the price hike.

Manufacturing orders

New orders of durable goods, monthly percent change, seasonally adjusted



SOURCE: U.S. Commerce Department TNS

BUSINESS

Crates holding live monkeys are collected after a crash Jan. 21 near Danville, Pennsylvania. The monkeys were headed to a research lab. **JIMMY MAY/BLOOMSBURG PRESS ENTERPRISE**

Monkey shipments to stop in wake of Pa. crash, airline says

By David Koenig
Associated Press

The airline that carried monkeys part of the way to a U.S. research laboratory before they were involved in a highway crash in Pennsylvania says it will stop the shipments.

Kenya Airways will not renew its contract with the shipper when it expires this month, airline CEO Allan Kilavuka said in an email.

Kilavuka did not identify the shipper who paid the airline to fly the animals from Mauritius, an island nation in the Indian Ocean, to New York.

The move by the African airline is the latest skirmish in a long-running battle between animal-rights groups and researchers — with airlines caught in the middle — over the use of animals in medical experiments.

On Jan. 21, a truck towing a trailer with 100 monkeys collided with a dump truck on a Pennsylvania highway. Several of the monkeys escaped. Authorities said later that three were shot and killed and they accounted for the rest.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which assisted local authorities after the crash and escape of some of the monkeys, said Tuesday that the monkeys are at an approved quarantine facility. A CDC spokeswoman declined to give the location of the facility or say what the lab intended to do with the monkeys.

Cynomolgus monkeys are often used in medical research because their DNA resembles that of humans, and they have been in high demand since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic for testing vaccines.

Monkeys were in short supply even before the pandemic. A 2018 report by the National Institutes of Health said half of researchers had trouble finding enough animals, which led to talk of talk of creating a "strategic monkey reserve."

Nearly 27,000 non-human primates were imported into the U.S. in the 12-month period ending Sept. 30, 2020. That was down 21% from the previous year because of restrictions from the leading exporter, China, according to a CDC report.

The use of animals in research is controversial, however, and animal rights groups have called for banning or limiting the practice.

After the crash, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals lobbied Kenya Airways to stop shipping monkeys to the unidentified lab in the U.S. The group said monkeys sent to labs are "tormented in experiments" that can cripple or kill them, and the research fails to produce treatments for humans.

On Tuesday, PETA asked U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to investigate shipments of primates for research, saying it believes shippers are violating rules governing hazardous materials — in this case, monkeys that might carry disease.

Most major airlines have stopped carrying research animals. In 2018, a biomedical trade group filed a discrimination complaint with the U.S. Transportation Department against United Airlines, British Airways and other carriers.

Air France remains a holdout, according to animal rights groups.

EPA restores Obama-era rule on mercury pollution limits

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press

The Brandon Shores coal-fired power plant in Maryland added pollution control equipment to cut mercury emissions. **SHANNON JENSEN/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2012**

WASHINGTON — In another reversal of a Trump-era action, the Environmental Protection Agency announced it will resume enforcement of a rule that limits power plant emissions of mercury and other hazardous pollutants.

The EPA action this week restores a 2012 rule imposed under President Barack Obama that was credited with curbing mercury's devastating neurological damage to children and prevented thousands of premature deaths while reducing the risk of heart attacks and cancer, among other public health benefits.

"Sound science makes it clear that we need to limit mercury and toxins in the air to protect children and vulnerable communities from dangerous pollution," EPA Administrator Michael Regan said in a statement.

President Joe Biden has set a goal to make the U.S. electricity sector carbon-neutral by 2035, but a sweeping, $555 billion plan to promote clean energy such as wind and solar power remains stalled in Congress.

Even without legislation, Biden can pursue his climate agenda through rules and regulations.

The EPA has announced a series of regulatory actions under Regan, including a plan to impose stronger limits on tailpipe emissions from cars and trucks and tighten restrictions on emissions of methane, a leading contributor to global warming.

The Trump administration gutted the mercury rule on power plants in 2020, saying the earlier rule amounted to regulatory overreach that imposed undue harm on the power sector.

Andrew Wheeler, the former coal lobbyist who headed the EPA under Trump, said the 2020 action balanced the rule's cost to utilities with public safety.

In reversing that decision, the EPA said the Trump-era action was "based on a fundamentally flawed interpretation of the Clean Air Act that improperly ignored or undervalued vital health benefits from reducing hazardous air pollution from power plants."

Based on a thorough review of the benefits, the "reasonable costs of controls" and other factors, "EPA is proposing to reaffirm that it is appropriate and necessary to regulate emissions of hazardous air pollutants from coal- and oil-fired power plants," the agency said.

Environmental groups welcomed the change, which they had been urging for months.

"EPA has a clear authority and responsibility to protect Americans from mercury and other toxic pollution from power plants, and today's finding reflects that," said Michael Panfil, a lawyer for the Environmental Defense Fund.

The next step is to strengthen the Obama-era rule, Panfil added.

"There are still many coal plants that release significant amounts of mercury pollution and put American families at risk," he said.

The Obama-era rule led to what electric utilities say was an $18 billion cleanup of mercury and other toxins from the smokestacks of coal-fired power plants.

Most coal-fired power plants have already made the technological upgrades required by the 2012 rule.

A group representing investor-owned electric companies hailed EPA's action to restore a legal determination that the mercury rule was appropriate.

"Since 2010, our industry has reduced its mercury emissions by more than 91%," said Tom Kuhn, president of the Edison Electric Institute, an industry lobbying group.

"Restoring the 'appropriate and necessary' finding enables electric companies to remain focused on getting the energy we provide as clean as we can as fast as we can," while maintaining reliability and affordability, Kuhn said.

Coal-fired power plants are the largest man-made source of mercury pollutants, which can enter the food chain through fish and other items people consume.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Friday, February 4, 2022

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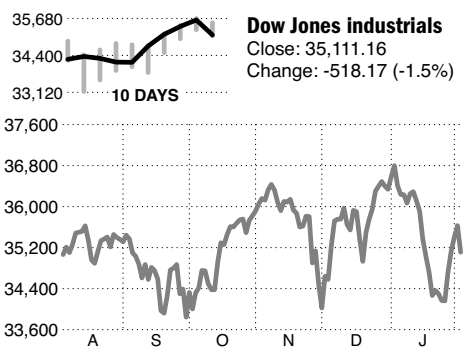
10-YR T-BOND 1.82% +.06

GOLD $1,803.00 -6.20



Dow Jones industrials
Close: 35,111.16
Change: -518.17 (-1.5%)

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	35,111.16	-518.17	-3.38%
DOW Trans.	15,469.08	-270.74	-6.12%
DOW Util.	950.60	-4.63	-3.08%
NYSE Comp.	16,677.39	-227.12	-2.84%
Nasdaq Comp.	13,878.82	-538.73	-11.29%
S&P 500	4,477.44	-111.94	-6.06%
S&P 400	2,618.86	-43.52	-7.85%
Wilshire 5000	44,884.84	-1,160.18	-7.38%
Russell 2000	1,991.03	-38.49	-11.32%

Commodities

FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	90.27	88.26	+20.02%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.89	5.50	+31.05%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.64	2.61	+18.60%
METALS	**CLOSE**	**PREV.**	**YTD**
Gold (oz)	1,803.00	1,809.20	-1.34%
Silver (oz)	22.38	22.71	-4.09%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. $	U.S. $ in ForEx
Britain	1.3589	.7359
Canada	.7887	1.2678
China	.1572	6.3610
Euro	1.1433	.8746
Japan	.008700	114.94
Mexico	.048577	20.5859

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Prime rate	3.25	3.25
3-mo. T-Bill	0.21	0.20
6-mo. T-Bill	0.48	0.43
5-yr T-Note	1.66	1.65
10-yr T-Note	1.82	1.81
30-yr T-Bond	2.14	2.10

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	15,368.47	-245.30	-1.57%	-3.25%
London	7,528.84	-54.16	-.71%	+1.95%
Hong Kong	23,802.26	...	%	+1.73%
Nikkei	27,241.31	-292.29	-1.06%	-5.38%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	14.87	-.55	-45.3
AT&T Inc (T)	24.56	+.02	-.2
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	120.08	-2.68	-16.6
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	16.57	-.39	-7.7
Amphenol Corp (APH)	79.07	-1.38	-9.6
Apple Inc (AAPL)	172.90	-2.94	-2.6
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	46.03	-.52	-7.7
Bank of America (BAC)	46.43	-.46	+4.4
Barnes Group (B)	45.27	-.64	-2.8
BioCardia Inc (BCDA)	2.00	+.43	+3.1
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2437.52	-3.46	+1.6
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	64.07	-.73	+2.8
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	108.72	-.18	+5.4
Carnival Corp (CCL)	20.34	-.51	+1.1
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	46.24	-1.27	-14.7
Charter Communic (CHTR)	610.45	+10.21	-6.4
Cigna Corp (CI)	217.56	-12.46	-5.3
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	49.64	-.35	-1.4
Disney (DIS)	140.03	-2.59	-9.6
DraftKings Inc (DKNG)	20.55	-1.24	-25.2
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	115.64	-1.44	-9.2
Energy Transfer L.P. (ET)	10.24	+.28	+24.4
Ethan Allen (ETD)	25.20	+.04	-4.1
Eversource Energy (ES)	88.07	-.61	-3.2
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.78	-.01	-10.6
Exelon Corp (EXC)	43.79	+.93	+6.3
Exicure Inc (XCUR)	.21	-.03	+4.5
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	79.68	-.94	+30.2
Ford Motor (F)	19.89	-.74	-4.2
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	4.07	-.12	-21.7
Gen Dynamics (GD)	212.17	-1.91	+1.8
Gen Electric (GE)	98.32	+.28	+4.1
General Motors Co (GM)	53.11	-.39	-9.4
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	72.19	-.93	+4.6
Honeywell Intl (HON)	191.74	-15.81	-8.0
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	15.64	-.46	-1.8
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	22.76	-1.01	-10.1
Intel Corp (INTC)	48.28	-1.23	-6.3
Kaival Brands Innov (KAVL)	1.21	+.58	+62.4
Kaman (KAMN)	39.61	-.65	-8.2
Keycorp (KEY)	25.61	-.20	+10.7
Lightning eMotors (ZEV)	4.56	+.21	-24.1
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	67.26	-4.50	-1.5
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	26.95	-.73	-29.2
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	42.98	-.66	-4.2
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	237.76	-85.24	-29.3
MetLife Inc (MET)	67.73	-.80	+8.4
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	301.25	-12.21	-10.4
Novartis AG (NVS)	86.42	+.51	-1.2
Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	239.48	-12.94	-18.6
Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	81.85	-1.42	-6.0
Palantir Technol (PLTR)	12.45	-.87	-31.6
PayPal Holdings (PYPL)	124.30	-8.27	-34.1
Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	19.94	+.20	+11.9
Pfizer Inc (PFE)	53.38	-.48	-9.6
Pinterest Inc (PINS)	24.51	-2.82	-32.6
Pitney Bowes (PBI)	4.81	-.12	-27.5
Prudential Fncl (PRU)	113.39	-1.41	+4.8
Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	67.09	-.19	+.5
Qualcomm Inc (QCOM)	179.10	-9.10	-2.1
Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	92.81	+.27	+7.8
Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.62	-.28	-.1
Roblox Corp (RBLX)	60.67	-5.50	-41.2
SS&C Technlogies (SSNC)	79.93	-1.81	-2.5
Snap Inc A (SNAP)	24.50	-7.57	-47.9
SOC Telemed Inc (TLMD)	2.85	+2.21	+122.7
SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	11.57	-.59	-26.8
Square Inc (SQ)	101.50	-12.54	-37.2
Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	174.36	+.04	-7.6
Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	24.41	-.36	+.5
Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.49	-.00	-16.1
Terex Corp (TEX)	41.91	-.41	-4.6
Tesla Inc (TSLA)	891.14	-14.52	-15.7
Travelers Cos (TRV)	172.07	-.65	+10.0
Twitter Inc (TWTR)	34.48	-2.03	-20.2
Uber Technologies (UBER)	34.54	-2.63	-17.6
United Rentals (URI)	324.43	-1.79	-2.4
UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	488.77	+8.99	-2.7
Virtus Invest (VRTS)	250.44	-8.06	-15.7
Voya Financial (VOYA)	68.84	-1.45	+3.8
Webster Financial (WBS)	59.21	-.17	+6.0
Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	55.17	-.51	+15.0
White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1055.04	+4.50	+4.1
World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	47.81	-1.61	-3.1
XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	65.52	-1.46	-15.4
Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	21.94	-.15	-3.1
Zynga Inc (ZNGA)	9.06	-.03	+41.6

Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
hbennett@courant.com

OPINION

Does anyone believe in democracy?

Ross Douthat

Writing about democracy, Ross Douthat calls on Democrats and Republicans to take hard looks at themselves. **MANDEL NGAN/GETTY-AFP**

"There is no sense in avoiding or diluting the magnitude of this turn in our story: One major political party no longer accepts democracy."

The author of this sentence is former Obama White House speechwriter Ben Rhodes, writing recently in The Atlantic, but it could have flowed from the keyboard of 100 different writers in the post-Trump, post-Jan. 6 era. That conservatism and the Republican Party have turned against government by the people, that only the Democratic Party still stands for democratic rule, is an important organizing thought of political commentary these days.

So let's subject it to some scrutiny — and with it, the current liberal relationship to democracy as well.

First, there's a sense in which conservatism has always had a fraught relationship to mass democracy. The fear of mob rule, of demagogues rallying the masses to destroy a fragile social order, is a common theme in many right-wing schools of thought, showing up among traditionalist defenders of aristocracy and libertarians alike.

To these general tendencies, we can add two specifically American forms of conservative anxiety about the franchise: the fear of corrupt urban-machine politics that runs back through the 1960 presidential election to the age of Tammany Hall and the racist fear of African American political power that stamped the segregation-era South.

Because all these influences touch the modern GOP, conservative skepticism about mass democracy was a somewhat normal part of American politics long before Donald Trump came along — and some of what's changed in the Trump era is just an events-driven accentuation of existing tendencies.

Republicans have long feared voter fraud and noncitizen voting, for instance, but the fear — and for liberals, the oft-discussed hope — that demographic change could deliver permanent Democratic power have raised the salience of these anxieties. Likewise, Republicans have long been more likely to portray America as a republic, not a democracy, and to defend our system's countermajoritarian mechanisms. But today this philosophical tendency is increasingly self-interested, because shifts in party coalitions mean that those mechanisms, the Senate and Electoral College especially, advantage Republicans somewhat more than in the recent past.

But then things get complicated, because the modern Republican Party is also the heir to a strong pro-democracy impulse, forged in the years when Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon won crushing presidential-level majorities but conservatives felt themselves constantly balked by unelected powers, bureaucrats and judges especially.

This experience left the right deeply invested in the idea that it represents the true American majority — moral, silent, what have you — while liberalism stands for elite power, anti-democratic forms of government, the bureaucracy and the juristocracy and the Ivy League.

And that idea and self-image has remained a potent aspect of the right-wing imagination even as the old Nixon and Reagan majorities have diminished and disappeared: With every new age of grassroots activism, from the tea party to the local-education revolts of today, the right reliably casts itself as small-d democrats, standing boldly athwart liberal technocracy singing "Yankee Doodle."

Against this complicated backdrop, Trump's stolen-election narratives should be understood as a way to reconcile the two competing tendencies within conservatism, the intellectual right's skepticism of mass democracy and comfort with countermajoritarian institutions with the populist right's small-d democratic self-image. In Trump's toxic dreampolitik there's actually no tension there: The right-wing coalition is justified in governing from a minoritarian position because it deserves to be a true electoral majority — and would be if only the liberal enemy weren't so good at cheating.

So seen from within the right, the challenge of getting out from under Trump's deceptions isn't just a simple matter of reviving a conservative commitment to democracy. Trump has succeeded precisely because he has exploited the right's more democratic impulses, speaking to them and co-opting them and claiming them for himself. Which means a conservative rival can't defeat or replace him by simply accusing him of being anti-democratic. Instead, the only plausible pitch would argue that his populism is self-limiting, and that a post-Trump GOP could potentially win a more sweeping majority than the one his supporters want to believe he won already — one that would hold up no matter what the liberal enemy gets up to.

But if that argument is challenging to make amid the smog of Trumpenkampf, so is the anti-Trump argument that casts American liberalism as the force to which anyone who believes in American democracy must rally. Because however much the right's populists get wrong about their claim to represent a true American majority, they get this much right: Contemporary liberalism is fundamentally miscast as a defender of popular self-rule.

To be clear, the present Democratic Party is absolutely in favor of letting as many people vote as possible. There are no doubts about the mass franchise among liberals, no fears of voter fraud and fewer anxieties than on the right about the pernicious influence of low-information voters.

But when it comes to the work of government, the actual decisions that determine law and policy, liberalism is the heir to its own not exactly democratic tradition — the progressive vision of disinterested experts claiming large swaths of policymaking for their own and walling them off from the vagaries of public opinion, the whims of mere majorities.

This vision — what my colleague Nate Cohn recently called "undemocratic liberalism" — is a pervasive aspect of establishment politics not only in the United States but across the Western world. On question after controverted question, its answer to "Who votes?" is different from its answer to "Who decides?" In one case, the people; in the other, the credentialed experts, the high-level stakeholders and activist groups, the bureaucratic process.

Who should lead pandemic decision-making? Obviously, Dr. Anthony Fauci and the relevant public health bureaucracies; we can't have people playing politics with complex scientific matters. Who decides what your local school teaches your kids? Obviously, teachers and administrators and education schools; we don't want parents demanding some sort of veto power over syllabuses. Who decides the future of the European Union? The important stakeholders in Brussels and Berlin, the people who know what they're doing, not the shortsighted voters in France or Ireland or wherever. Who makes important U.S. foreign policy decisions? Well, you have the interagency process, the permanent regional specialists and the military experts, not the mere whims of the elected president.

Or to pick a small but telling recent example, who decides whether an upstate New York school district gets to retain the Indian as its high school mascot? The state's education commissioner, apparently, who's currently threatening to cut funds to the school board that voted to keep it unless they reverse course.

Whereas the recent wave of right-wing populism, even when it doesn't command governing majorities, still tends to champion the basic idea of popular power — the belief that more areas of Western life should be subject to popular control and fewer removed into the purview of unelected mandarins. And even if this is not a wise idea in every case, it is democratic idea, whose widespread appeal reflects the fact that modern liberalism really does suffer from a democratic deficit.

Which is a serious problem, to put it mildly, for a movement that aspires to fight and win a struggle on behalf of democratic values. So just as a conservative alternative to Trump would need to somehow out-populist him, to overcome the dark side of right-wing populism, American liberalism would need to first democratize itself.

Douthat is a columnist for The New York Times.

Inflation is high, but there are reasons for optimism

Paul Krugman

American workers are quitting their jobs at record rates. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

American workers are quitting at record rates, suggesting that they are confident they can easily find new jobs. Wages are rising rapidly, suggesting that labor currently has a lot of bargaining power. These are the hallmarks of an economy at or near full employment. At the same time, inflation is running uncomfortably high.

All of this says that it is time for the Federal Reserve to cool things down, which it has indeed said it will do. It is planning a series of interest rate hikes over the year ahead, with the pace of those hikes dependent on the data.

But can the Fed pull this off without sending us into a recession? It will be tricky, for reasons I'll get to. But I keep seeing people drawing parallels between recent inflation and the inflation of the 1970s, with the implication that disinflation will be as ugly as it was last time. So it is important to understand why that comparison is misleading.

The end of the '70s inflation was indeed extremely ugly. Paul Volcker's tight-money policies eventually brought inflation down to tolerable levels but only at the cost of a huge surge in unemployment.

Why was disinflation so hard? Because expectations of continuing inflation had gotten deeply entrenched in the economy, businesses kept raising prices even in the face of high unemployment (which is what we mean when we say "stagflation").

It took years of pain to break the wage-price spiral. What about now? I have been spending some time with the Michigan Surveys of Consumers, which since 1946 have been asking Americans what inflation they expect over the next year and over the next five years. In 1980, the median answers to these two questions were similar; for example, in February 1980, one-year expected inflation was 10%, five-year expected inflation 9.7%.

Now, however, they are quite different.

One-year expectations have gone up a lot; five-year expectations, much less. I have used the one-year and five-year numbers to extract an implied prediction for average inflation rate over the next two to five years.

Here is how that works: Imagine that people expected 5% inflation this year, but only 2% after that. Then, they'd expect prices over the next five years to rise by 13% — (4x2) + 5 — with an average inflation rate over the whole period of 2.6% per year. (Dear math nerds: I know that is only an approximation. But it is good enough for government work.) What I have done is invert that calculation, asking what future inflation rate would be consistent with people's one-year and five-year expectations.

What that shows is that while Americans have sharply increased their expectations for inflation over the near future, they don't expect that inflation to persist.

Why is that a useful thing to know? Not because there is some wisdom-of-crowds thing going on. Instead, what that is telling us is that expected inflation has not (yet?) become entrenched the way it had by the end of the 1970s.

Back to that in a moment. First, let me point out that the inflation pattern consumers appear to expect — a year of rapid price increases followed by a return to modest inflation — would in fact be a good outcome.

As many economists have noted, the pandemic has skewed demand. Nervous consumers have been reluctant to buy services, which often involve face-to-face contact, and they have splurged on goods instead.

Supply chains have had problems keeping up with this surge in demand for stuff, leading to much more rapid price increases for goods than for services.

But why have we adjusted through higher goods prices rather than lower service prices? Because history tells us that it is much easier to raise prices than to cut them. If we had tried to offset rising prices in supply-constrained sectors by driving down prices elsewhere, we would have had much slower job growth — and probably wouldn't have given the private sector as much incentive to reduce the bottlenecks it is facing.

So a temporary period of elevated inflation, followed by a return to normal, is actually the appropriate economic response to the peculiar stresses of recovery from the pandemic recession — unless higher inflation gets entrenched in expectations. So the evidence that this entrenching isn't happening is very good news.

Why, then, do I say that pulling off a return to acceptable inflation will be tricky? Because hitting desired economic targets is hard, even when the fundamentals are on your side. We don't really know what level of gross domestic product is consistent with full employment, nor do we know how high interest rates will have to go to hit any given level of GDP. The Fed will adjust its policies based on incoming economic data, but monetary policy acts with a substantial lag, so it can be many months before we know whether interest rates are too low, too high or just right.

But 2022 isn't 1980. Inflation hasn't become entrenched. So while there will surely be some bumps along the way, there is a pretty good chance that the Fed can let us down easy.

Krugman is a columnist for The New York Times.

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Hartford

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1/31, 2/1, 2/2, 2/3 and 2/4/22 7137043

Connecticut

TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROCUREMENT NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NAUBUC SCHOOL CLASSROOM RECONFIGURATION
RPGL-2022-22

DUE DATE AND TIME: MARCH 2, 2022 by 11:00 AM

The Town of Glastonbury will be accepting proposals from qualified individuals or firms to provide a classroom reconfiguration design for Naubuc School. Proposals shall provide technical data for components to be provided, pricing proposals, and other data necessary in order to determine the best qualified firm
There will be pre-proposal meeting held on February 22, 2022 at 10:00 AM at the Naubuc School Gym, 84 Griswold Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033.
Interested individuals and firms should obtain the complete RFP and related information from the Town's website at www.glastonburyct.gov. Responses to the Proposal must be submitted electronically no later than the time and date indicated above. LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.
Responses can be submitted at the following link: https://app.negometrix.com/buyer/2832, under the RFP title "RPGL-2022-22 – Naubuc School Classroom Reconfiguration". Respondents will be required to create a profile before submitting their proposal. Step-by-step instructions on how to register as a vendor are available at this website:
https://help.negometrix.com/en/support/solutions/articles/9000177626-register-on-negometrix4
The Town reserves the right to waive informalities or reject any part of, or the entire proposal, when said action is deemed to be in the best interests of the Town.
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women/Disadvantaged Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit a proposal.
Mary F. Visone
Purchasing Agent
2/4/2022 7143423

TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS #1117
OWNER'S PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Town of Bloomfield, on behalf of the Library Building Committee, is soliciting proposals from qualified Owner's Project Managers ("OPM's") for the purpose of comprehensive owner's project management services for the Bloomfield Town Libraries project. Submittal requirements may be obtained from the Purchasing and Risk Manager, Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield, CT 06002 or on the Town's website, www.bloomfieldct.gov. All responses must be received by 1:00 p.m. on March 1, 2022 in order to be considered.
2/4/2022 7143356

NOTICE OF INSOLVENT ESTATE
ESTATE OF Naomi V. Anderson, Late of Deep River, AKA Naomi Anderson (21-0425)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, at a hearing held on January 13, 2022, found the above estate to be insolvent. Any creditor who fails to present his or her claim to the fiduciary at the address below, on or before June 26, 2022, shall be forever barred from asserting or recovering on such claim from the fiduciary, the estate of the decedent, or any creditor of the estate.
/s/ Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk
The fiduciary is:
JOSEPH A CIPPARONE, CIPPARONE & ZACCARO, P.C., 261 WILLIAMS STREET, NEW LONDON, CT 06320
2/4/2022 7143520

Connecticut

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT
JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice to Javon Alston, father of female child born on 3/26/2020 to Anissa W. of parts unknown

A petition has been filed seeking:

Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above named or vesting of custody and care of said child(ren) of the above named in a lawful, private agency or a suitable and worthy person.

The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on 02/24/2022 @ 3:00 PM at Superior Court, Juvenile Matter, 20 Franklin Square, 3rd Floor, New Britain, CT 06051

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper having circulation in the town/city of: Bristol, CT

Judge: Hon. Carl E. Taylor
Signed: Peter J. Fradiani - Clerk
Date Signed: 02/02/2022

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure that an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.
2/4/2022 7143485

Development Coordinator for Parkville Neighborhood Projects
Hartford, Connecticut

The Capital Region Development Authority ("CRDA"), a quasi-public agency of the State of Connecticut, is seeking a qualified contractor to serve as a development project coordinator in the Parkville neighborhood. Please see full posting and submission requirements at https://crdact.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/1-27-2022-DevelopmentCoordinator-ParkvilleProjects.pdf
1/28 - 2/13/2022 7138105

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT
JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice Angel Santos, parent of a child born on 1/22/22 to O'Nehsa N. of parts unknown
A petition has been filed seeking:
Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above named or vesting of custody and care of said child(ren) of the above named in a lawful, private agency or a suitable and worthy person.
The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard 3/8/22 at 2:00 PM at Superior Court - Juvenile Matters 920 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106
Hearing on an Order of Temporary Custody will be heard on: 2/4/22 at 11:00 AM at Superior Court - Juvenile Matters 920 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106
Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in The Hartford Courant, a newspaper having circulation in the town/city of: Hartford, CT
Judge: Hon. Michael Dannehy
Signed: Clerk - Debra A. Rubert
Date Signed: 1/28/22

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.
2/3/2022 7143259

NOTICE OF HEARING INSOLVENT ESTATE
ESTATE OF Alice V. Longstreet (21-0334)

Pursuant to an order of Hon. David A. Baram, Judge a hearing will be held to determine whether the above estate is insolvent, as is represented in documentation on file at the Court of probate. Said hearing, wherein the Court's decision may affect your interests, if any, will be held at the court of probate, Town Office Building, 50 Church Street, Windsor Locks, CT 06096, on February 24, 2022, at 2:00 PM.
By Order of the Court
/s/ Charles Wolfe, Clerk
2/4/2022 7143516

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF BERLIN
INVITATION TO BID
MULTI-PURPOSE COPIERS/PRINTERS/ SCANNERS
Bid # 2022-25

The Town of Berlin, CT is seeking bids for multi-purpose copiers/printers/scanners at the Town and Board of Education locations. This is a five-year contract in accordance with our specifications.
One (1) original and two (2) copies of Sealed bids will be accepted at the Purchasing Agent's Office, Town Hall, 240 Kensington Road, Room 110, Berlin, CT 06037 until, but no later than 2:00PM, February 22, 2022, at which time they will be publicly opened and read. The Town will not accept submissions by e-mail or fax. The Town will reject proposals received after the date and time noted above.
The documents comprising the Request for Proposals may be obtained on the Town's website, www.berlinct.gov, under "Departments, Purchasing, and Current Bids & RFPs," or from Maryssa Tsolis, Purchasing Agent, Berlin Town Hall, Room 110, 240 Kensington Rd, Berlin, CT 06037 during normal business hours. Each proposer is responsible for checking the Town's website to determine if the Town has issued any addenda and, if so, to complete its proposal in accordance with the RFP as modified by the addenda.
The Town reserves the right to amend or terminate this Request for Proposals, accept all or any part of a proposal, reject all proposals, waive any informalities or non-material deficiencies in a proposal, and award the proposal to the proposer that, in the Town's judgment, will be in the Town's best interests.
Maryssa Tsolis
Purchasing Agent
2/4/2022 7143610

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated:
ExtraSpace Storage, 56 Pameacha Ave, Middletown,Ct 06457 860-575-7610
February 9, 2022 at 11:00 AM
David Lanzoni Unit# 2061 Household items
Sandra Carr Unit# 2118 Household Items
Lisa McNeil Unit# 2125 Household
Mercedes Jones Unit# 3020 Furniture
Jeffrey Mack Unit# 3078 Household Items
Johanna Baez Unit# 3124 Household Items
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
1/29, 2/4/2022 7138719

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cedar Hill Cemetery Association and Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation will hold their Annual Meetings on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 4:00 pm for the purpose of receiving reports, electing directors and auditors, and considering any other business proper to come before said meeting. The meeting will take place virtually via Zoom meetings. For more information on the meeting, contact Cedar Hill Cemetery's office at 860-956-3311.

William MacDonnell
President
2/4, 2/8/2022 7140571

City of Middletown
Notice of Funding Availability
February 1, 2022

Pursuant to the City of Middletown's Citizens' Participation Plan, and the regulations of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Citizens' Advisory Committee will hold a public hearing to provide citizens, and citizen organizations, with an opportunity to comment on the use of an estimated $400,000 in anticipated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement funds, and any additional program income and re-programmed funding for the 2022 grant year.
The city is interested in proposals that meet the goals and strategies outlined in the City's 5-year Consolidated Plan of Housing & Community Development, a summary of which will be included in the grant application. The City of Middletown will accept applications for any project which demonstrates a public benefit and fulfills an objective of the Consolidated Plan.
The hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. via WebEx. A link with meeting information will be sent to all agencies that submit an application. Each applicant will be granted a five-minute time slot to present their proposal. The Citizens' Advisory Committee of the City of Middletown has established certain requirements for organizations who would like to receive program funds. Therefore, persons and organizations interested in submitting funding requests and/or commenting on the use of funds should obtain applications which are available in the Department of Economic & Community Development, Room 202 of the Municipal Building or electronically at:
https://www.middletownct.gov/306/Community-Development
Completed funding requests should be submitted online or returned to the Department of Economic & Community Development no later than 4:15 p.m. on Friday, March 4th, 2022.
For more information please contact the Community Development Specialist at Lynda. MacPherson@middletownct.gov or call 860-638-4837.
2/4/2022 7141847

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT
JUVENILE MATTERS

NOTICE

Notice to: Raul Robles, father of female child born on 10/8/2010 and male child born on 8/9/2012 to Katherine G. of parts unknown.
A petition has been filed seeking:
Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above named or vesting of custody and care of said child(ren) of the above named in a lawful, private or public agency or a suitable and worthy person.
The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on: 3/9/2022 at 2:30 p.m. at 20 Franklin Sq. 3rd Floor, New Britain CT 06051.
Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in the: Hartford Courant, a newspaper having a circulation in the town/city of: Hartford, CT.
Judge: Hon. Sheila Huddleston
Signed: Peter Fradiani, Deputy Clerk
Date signed: 1/25/2022
Right to counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure that an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.
2/4/2022 7143460

Car Reviews
Saturdays in
MOTORING

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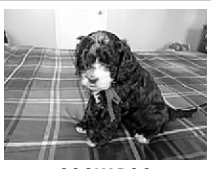
Dogs

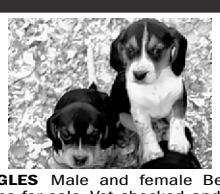


COCKAPOO
Beautiful 7 1/2 week, he will make a great family dog due to his size and limited shedding. Vet checked. $1,500.

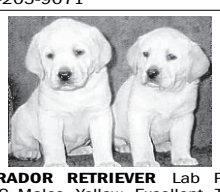
GOLDEN RETREIVER PUPPIES Ready 1/29, 1st shots & dewormed. $850. 802-895-2784

GOLDENDOODLES Gorgeous new litter! Teddy bear puppy's, 8wks farm raised, shots, wormed. Parents on site. Health Guarantee. $2500 Call: 401-741-7717.

MINI GOLDENDOODLE Puppies! 2 females available yet. Stunningly beautiful colors! Hypoallergenic. Minimal shedding. Will be approx 25-30 pounds full grown. Family raised and loved. Fun loving! Loves People! Sure to win your heart! First shots, vet exams, microchipped, 2 year health guarantee. Ready to go January 26. Delivery options available. $2,400 Hoosick Falls, NY 802-282-2232 call/text"



BEAGLES Male and female Beagle pups for sale. Vet checked and first shots. Will make great family dogs out of solid hunting lines ($750). 860-205-9071



LABRADOR RETRIEVER Lab Pups, AKC Males, Yellow, Excellent, Temp and health. Blocky heads Shots, Ready Now, $1400 860-236-5200

MINI GOLDENDOODLE
Cute, calm and loyal friends raised in our home. Their hypoallergenic coat makes them ideal pets for your home. Our puppies are vaccinated, dewormed and are vet checked by our vet $2500. For availability Call/text Dan at 413.244.6772

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

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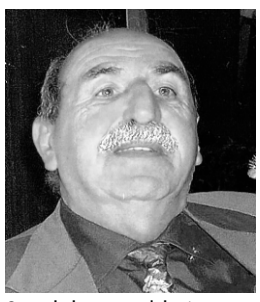
OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Avon
Kevin S. Colvin
Bloomfield
Kevin S. Colvin
Bristol
Anthony Delorenzo
Henriette Labrecque
Cromwell
Carolyn Hruniak
East Hartford
John A. Figueiredo
Glastonbury
George Carreira
Hebron
George Carreira
Manchester
Robert F. Hackbarth
New Britain
Nancy C. Albert
Jeffrey J. Deprey
Newington
Maril B. Mason
Other Towns in CT
Nancy C. Albert
Robert F. Hackbarth
Out of State
Lorina Bolduc
Garry K. Wright
Rocky Hill
Carolyn Hruniak
Carol M. Peruch
Frederick A. Peruch
South Windsor
Maril B. Mason
Southington
Lorina Bolduc
Anthony Delorenzo
Richard E. O'Hala
Vernon
Peter K. Bassett
West Hartford
John A. Figueiredo
Rita P. Spitler
Windsor
Alphonse Major
OUT OF STATE
Peter K. Bassett
Stoddard, NH
Garry K. Wright
Great Mills, MD

*** Denotes name listing only.**
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Carreira, George "Chico"



George "Chico" Carreira, 86, of Lebanon passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, February 3, 2022. He was the widower of Magdalene "Lena" (Brennan) Carreira who died in 2016. Born in Hartford, Chico was the son of the late Manuel and Minavina Carreira. He worked as a truck driver for many years and was a member of Teamsters Local 559. Surviving are his two sons and daughters-in-law William and Celia Carreira of Glastonbury, Peter and Dawn Carreira of Hebron, two grandchildren Megan and Michael Carreira and several nieces and nephews. Chico was predeceased by his son Thomas Paul Carreira, his brother Frank Carreira and his sister Evelyn Rodriguez. Funeral services and burial will be private. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hartford Healthcare Hospice, 34 Ledgebrook Dr, Mansfield Center, CT 06250. For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com.

MULRYAN
FUNERAL HOME

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Figueiredo, John Andrade "Joao"

John Andrade "Joao" Figueiredo, 94, of East Hartford, beloved husband of over 71 years to Maria Loura (Bairos) Figueiredo, peacefully entered into the arms of our Lord on Sunday, January 30, 2022 at his home with his loving, caring wife and adored family by his side. Born in Santa Maria, Azores on August 8, 1927, a son of the late Manuel and Maria (Andrade) Figueiredo, he came to the United States with his wife and five children on May 4, 1960. A hard worker, John worked many years for King Construction Company prior to his retirement. He was a talented stone mason who loved building walls and walkways for family and friends.

A devout Catholic, John was a faithful communicant of St. Rose Church, East Hartford and was very devoted to the Holy Spirit. He was a co-founder and an active member of The Holy Ghost Portuguese Society in East Hartford. He enjoyed being outside in his vegetable and flower gardens and taking care of his yard. He also loved making homemade wine for everyone to enjoy, especially at family dinners, holidays, and celebrations. Most of all, John was a proud, devoted husband, father, and grandfather who took pride in his home and cherished the special time with his entire family. He was loved by all and will be sadly missed by all who knew and met him.

John and Maria had six beloved children, one of whom was his predeceased infant son, John Figueiredo, and is survived by Maria L. Cerejo and her husband Armindo, Joseph Figueiredo and his wife Nicole, Antonio Figueiredo and his wife Susan, Conni M. Levesque, John B. Figueiredo and his wife Sandra; twelve adored grandchildren, Joyce Day and her husband Michael, John Cerejo and his significant other Dana, Christina Bellizzi and her husband Justin, Nicolas Figueiredo, Erica Figueiredo, Jeremy Levesque and his wife Cassie, Chantal Obermeier, Meghan Figueiredo and her fiancée Michael, John Patrick Figueiredo, Alyssa Brown and her husband Lucas, Philep Levesque and his significant other Jessica, Dylan Figueiredo; eleven cherished great-grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and seven step great-grandchildren. He also leaves a sister, Maria Luis of Canada; five sisters-in-law; two brothers-in-law; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. Besides his parents and infant son, John was predeceased by his in-laws, Antonio and Marianna (Loura) Bairos; five brothers; one sister; several sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law.

Funeral service will be Monday (February 7, 2022) with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10:30 am at St. Rose Church, 33 Church Street, East Hartford. Burial will be immediately following at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. The family asks that everyone please go directly to the church on Monday morning. John's family will receive relatives and friends on Sunday (February 6, 2022) from 3 – 6 pm at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford. Facemasks are required at all of the services by all who attend. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in John's name may be made to Foodshare, 450 Woodland Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002 or MACC Charities, P.O. Box 3804, Manchester, CT 06045-3804. For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoeh.com.

D'Esopo
Funeral Chapel

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Major, Alphonse

Alphonse Major, 89, of West Har ord passed away on Friday, January 14, 2022. Born July 28, 1932, in Somersworth, NH. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Stories live on.
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Hartford Courant media group
In partnership with Legacy.com

OBITUARIES

Colvin, Kevin S.

Kevin S. Colvin, 64, of Bloomfield, beloved husband of Sylvia (Zvaigzne) Colvin, passed away peacefully Thursday, January 27, 2022, at his home surrounded by his loving family. Born in Wallingford, son of Lela (Richards) Colvin of Suffield and the late Floyd Colvin he lived in CT since high school. He earned his BA and Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy degrees from Central Connecticut State University. Kevin started out his working career as a bank messenger and later construction management for CBT, spent many years in Provider Relations for CIGNA and CHNCT, as well as the counseling field with CT DCF and crisis counseling at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. In 2009, he used his previous experience in project management to begin a successful career in real estate, joining Keller Williams Legacy Partners, where his wife Sylvia joined him in 2011, and was active until his passing. Kevin enjoyed helping organizations in the communities he served. He served on the Board of Directors of the Avon Chamber of Commerce where he also served as co-chair of the Education Committee; he also was a member of the board of Avon Dollars for Scholars and the Avon/Canton Rotary. Kevin was a member of the First Congregational Church in Bloomfield where he previously served as a Deacon and was a member of the facilities committee. He enjoyed serving organizations that had a major impact on small communities. He also enjoyed spending time with family, hiking and biking. His dog Jake was a beloved companion before his passing, as well as his senior rescue dog Bailey who never left his side. Besides his wife Sylvia of 37 years and his mother Lela; he leaves behind his daughter Allyson Colvin of West Haven; sister Penny Colvin Goetjen and her husband Kent of Daniel Island, SC; mother-in-law Kaethe Zvaigzne of Milford; sister and brother-in-law Barbara and Paul Horvath; brother and sister-in-law Guenther and Joy Zvaigzne; nephews Scott Zvaigzne, Tyler and Patricia Zvaigzne; Kurt and Deanna Goetjen, Austin Goetjen; nieces Melissa and Jake Stearns; Rachel Horvath, Allyssa Horvath, Kelsey Goetjen; and cousins Peter and Patti Richards. A Memorial Service to Celebrate his Life will be held Sunday, February 13, 2022, at 1 PM at the First Congregational Church in Bloomfield, 10 Wintonbury Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002. Masks are required. A Reception will follow the service. To view the service on line please visit www.mybloomfield.church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to either the First Congregational Church in Bloomfield, Special Fund for Solar Panels or A Promise To Jordan, 542 Hopmeadow St. #184, Simsbury, CT 06070. The Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center of Avon is caring for the arrangements, burial will be private. For directions or condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Hackbarth, Robert F

Robert F Hackbarth of Madison died peacefully at home in the company of his beloved wife and family on January 27, 2022, after a lengthy illness. Bob was the husband of Elizabeth Louise Hackbarth (Picket). A memorial service will be on June 19, 2022. For the full obituary please visit www.guilfordfuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Mason, Maril B (Robinson)

Maril (Marilyn) B. Mason passed away January 27, 2022, at the age of 84. She survived a battle with cancer for 20 years before dementia finally prevailed. Born in Conway, New Hampshire, she moved to Connecticut as a child where she met and married the love of her life, Warren (Skip) Mason, in 1955. They eventually settled in Newington in 1960 before retiring to a home they built in Brownfield, Maine in 1997. Declining health brought them back to Connecticut in 2019.

While raising 6 boys of her own she fostered over 20 babies and still found time to be an excellent cook, creative artist, unpublished novelist and build a matchmaking newsletter. In retirement, she loved working the Conway visitor information booth and managing the nearby Hebert Candy shop.

Maril loved beach vacations, travel, board and card games, reading, her pets and most of all, hiking and exploring the White Mountains of New Hampshire which she always referred to as "her home".

She was predeceased by her son, Keith and daughter-in-law, Joy. She is survived by her beloved husband and best friend of 66 years, Skip and her five sons, Kevin (Sheri) of Newington, Kris (Natalia) of Waterford, Leigh (Martha) of South Windsor, Robert (Tammi) of S. Dennis, Massachusetts and Chip (Natalie) of E. Sandwich, Massachusetts as well as 10 grandchildren, Kolin, Kristopher, Tristan, Tanya, Tyler, Kira, Mackenzie, Sawyer, Evan, Sabrina and 1 great grandchild, Sophia.

Services will be private and for immediate family only.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Peruch, Frederick A.

Frederick A. Peruch, 78, of Rocky Hill, beloved husband of Carol Peruch entered into eternal rest on Sunday, January 30th, 2022 in Hartford, Connecticut. He leaves behind two daughters Kim Peruch and Cheryl Ganci, his son-in-law Joe Ganci and his two cherished grandchildren Matthew Ganci and Daniel Ganci. He is survived by three brothers Michael Peruch and his spouse Delores, Ralph Peruch and his spouse Claudia and John Peruch. He was the proud owner/operator of the Caprice Hair Center, in West Hartford Connecticut for over 40 years. He enjoyed his work and especially cherished the many wonderful, long-term friendships that he developed with his clients over the years. He loved music, dancing and spending time with his family. He will be dearly missed. A private burial will be held for his passing in the Spring.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Bolduc, Lorina

Lorina "Lori" Bolduc, 85, of Palm Coast, FL and formerly of Southington, CT passed away on January 23, 2022 in Palm Coast, FL.

Lori moved to Palm Coast in 1988 from Southington, Connecticut. She passed away on Sunday, January 23, 2022 at in Palm Coast, FL. She was born in New Canada Plantation, Maine on March 8, 1936. Lori was one of eight daughters of the late Jean Baptiste Theriault and Catherine Nadeau Theriault. She was a member of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church where she served as a Eucharistic Minister and was a member of the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary. She enjoyed dancing, knitting, sewing, doing crafts, and loved spending time with her family.

Surviving are her daughters, Debbie Toussaint and her husband Daniel of Frenchville, Maine, Dawn Hills and her husband Donald of Thomaston, Connecticut, her sons, Bryan Boutot and his wife Nancy of Palm Coast, Keith Brown and his wife Carmela, also of Palm Coast, Phil Bolduc and his wife Barbara of Mossup, Connecticut, and Norman Bolduc and his wife Janny of Lakewood, Colorado, twelve grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, three sisters, Una Daigle of Pinellas Park, FL, Viola Belanger and Thelma Beleveau both of Southington, Connecticut, several nieces, and nephews. Preceding her in death was her husband Leo Bolduc and a daughter Linda Reichler.

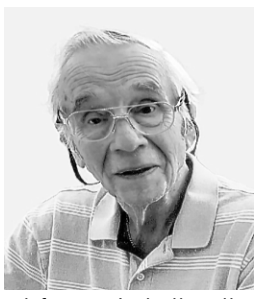
Funeral services will be held on Monday, Feb. 7, 2022 at (15 am from the DellaVecchia Funeral Home to St. Dominic Church for a Mass at 10 am. Burial will be at St. Thomas Cemetery. Calling hours will be held on Sunday, Feb.6th from 2-5 pm.

Memorial donations may be made in her memory to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105

For online condolences and directions please visit www.dellavecchiasouthington.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Bassett, Peter K.



Peter Kellogg Bassett, 82, of Stoddard, NH, formerly of Coventry, beloved husband of 60 years of Patricia (Lamoureux) Bassett passed away peacefully on Monday, January 31, 2022. Peter was born on October 15, 1939, in Washington, DC the only child of Royal Bassett and Louise Chamberlain. He grew up in various places. Peter graduated from Mitchell College. He pursued a wide range of careers including, owning a hardware store, being a caregiver for the developmentally disabled, and a farmer. He cared for youngsters throughout his life and was instrumental in the development of their life skills. In his school years he was a scholar and athlete. His favorite sports were crew, soccer, and hockey where he shined as a goalie. He developed and ran one of the earliest programs for Riding for the Developmentally Disabled in the state. Being a mentor to many through coaching and school liaison for FFA was some of his most rewarding experiences. Peter's compassion for people and animals was his legacy to all. In addition to his beloved Patricia, he leaves his three daughters Susan Bassett-Wooley of Coventry, Barbara Foremen and her spouse Philip of Vernon and Elizabeth Hanville and her spouse Richard of Cornelius, NC, and his eight loving and cherished grandchildren Sydney Wooley, Samantha Foreman, Joseph Wooley; Andrew Foremen, Jonathan Hanville, Sabrina Hanville; Sierra Wooley and James "JP" Hanville. A time of visitation for family and friends will be at the Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Road in Vernon on Monday, February 7, 2022, from 5-7 pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 11:00 am at St. Bernard Church, 25 St. Bernard Terrace, Rockville. Burial will follow in St. Bernard Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please make donations to local homeless shelters and food pantries or to a Hardship Hockey Scholarship being created in Peter's memory to benefit the Queen City Royals Youth Hockey Team in Indian Trail, NC. For information about the scholarship please contact cullenb@xicenter.com To leave an online condolence please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Peruch, Carol M (Whipple)

Carol (Whipple) Peruch, 77, of Rocky Hill, beloved wife of Frederick A. Peruch for 58 years entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 in Zephyrhills, Florida. She is survived by her daughters Kim Peruch and Cheryl Ganci, her son-in-law Joe Ganci and her two cherished grandchildren Matthew Ganci and Daniel Ganci. She worked as a hairstylist alongside her husband at the Caprice Hair Center (their family business) for over 30 years. Spending time with her family was her greatest joy. We shared lots of love and laughter together. She also enjoyed music and dancing. She will be dearly missed. A private burial will be held for her passing in the Spring.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Wright, Garry K

Garry Kelvin Wright, 59, of Great Mills, Maryland passed away unexpectedly at home on January 31, 2022.

Garry was born February 14, 1962 to the late Johnny Elmo Wright and Mary Alice McDougald (Miles). Born in Hartford, CT and raised in surrounding areas, Garry, affectionately known as "G", will be remembered most for his deep melodic voice, his infectious laugh and his love of family.

Services will be held at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road Leonardtown, MD on February 12, 2022. Family and close friends are welcome to gather between 12-2 PM with service starting at 2 PM. For those who can not attend physically, the memorial will also be livestreamed. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Heart Association. Following service, celebrations will continue at the family's home.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Visit the obituary section on courant.com to share memories of loved ones.

Hartford Courant

CONNECTICUT

COURANT.COM/CONNECTICUT

Controversial apartment decision stalled

Court appeals made by neighbors who argue officials made a mistake in approving project

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

The controversial plan to build a 131-unit apartment building across Route 4 from UConn Health in Farmington is stalled with court appeals by several neighbors who argue town officials made a mistake in approving it.

In two separate cases, Prattling Pond homeowners are challenging the wetlands permit as well as the zoning approval for the project.

Douglas and Kimberly Zeytoonjian contend the project will damage a quiet neighborhood that was never intended for large-scale multifamily housing.

The developer and some business leaders counter that Route 4 in that area has long been a target for high-value development in the health and technology fields, and that convenient, modern housing would boost that effort.

The state government as well as the town for years have worked to draw major health sciences employers to the area near I-84's Exit 39. Currently the American Red Cross, the Carrier Corp., Otis Elevator and Stanley Black & Decker all have large facilities nearby. The UConn Health Center and Jackson Laboratory are within a couple of minutes' drive of the development site.

After more than a half-year of review, town officials concluded last summer that developer Geoffrey Sager's proposal for a three-story apartment complex meets all of the town's requirements. They had balked in the spring at his initial proposal for a four-story, 146-unit building, and ultimately approved only three floors.

But the Zeytoonjians are asking a Superior Court to overturn that decision altogether. Their home shares a border with the site, and they contend the project is still vastly too big to fit in with the neighborhood's low-key character.

Turn to Apartment, *Page 2*

Examples from PhoGo's Avon menu, clockwise from top right, pho, banh mi sandwich, Vietnamese salad and bubble tea. **SUSAN DUNNE/HARTFORD COURANT**

Impressing people with food

Founder of Parkville's PhoGo sets sights high as restaurant expands to larger space and menu

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

The Vietnamese restaurant PhoGo has expanded from its small stall in Hartford's Parkville Market to an 860-square-foot location in Old Avon Village with a larger menu.

"We wanted to do bubble tea at Parkville but there was already a bubble tea place. And we wanted to do chicken but there is so much chicken there already," says Linda Sanducu, founder of both restaurants. "We do tacos here, too, our way."

The new location, in the Old Avon Village complex, is more than four times larger than the 200-square-feet stall in Parkville. Sanducu's husband, Radu, a general contractor who owns the Avon store, totally refurbished the vintage yellow building that once housed Pick & Mix Korean-Japanese restaurant.

Linda Sanducu was born and raised in Vietnam. The daughter of a Vietnamese restaurant owner and a Black American soldier, Sanducu was raised by her mother, Luong Nguyen, who taught her the recipes she uses in the restaurant.

She grew up loving her mother's Vietnamese food, even if she had a hard time loving Vietnam itself.

"I got bullied a lot as a kid in school and as an adult. My nickname was Black. I was called the

Turn to PhoGo, *Page 2*

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Cases continue to recede

Yale doctor warns of additional surges

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

Connecticut continued to show promising declines in its COVID-19 metrics Thursday, as the state reported additional reductions in hospitalizations and its weekly test positivity rate.

The most recent COVID-19 surge has steadily abated, state numbers show. Since mid-January, the number of patients hospitalized with the virus has shrunk by more than half. Meanwhile, Connecticut is now averaging 1,641 COVID-19 cases per day, compared to more than 10,000 three weeks ago.

At Yale New Haven Health, the recent surge peaked with about 760 patients hospitalized due to COVID-19 and has since declined, said chief clinical officer Dr. Tom Balcezak.

"We're not going to get down to zero patients ... but we'll get back to 20, 30 patients across our health system," he said.

Yet Balcezak cautioned against viewing the declining metrics as evidence of the pandemic's end.

"I'm not at all confident that this is the last surge," he said. "At least for the next 12 to 24 months, we're going to see additional surges. Maybe not as large or as impactful as this last surge, but we'll see another one."

Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut on Thursday reported 2,445 new COVID-19 cases out of 37,197 tests administered, for a daily positivity rate of 6.57%. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands at 7.73%, the lowest it has been since Dec. 21.

Turn to Virus, *Page 2*

Cromwell manager named state's chief manufacturing officer

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

FARMINGTON — Gov. Ned Lamont announced Thursday he's appointed a Cromwell manufacturer as the state's chief manufacturing officer to promote the more than 4,000 businesses in Connecticut that make submarines, jet engines, helicopters, medical and aerospace equipment and other high-value products.

Lavoie

Paul Lavoie, general manager of Carey Manufacturing, a manufacturer of catches, latches, handles and electronic hardware, cited his work bringing manufacturing back from China. He succeeds Colin Cooper, an aerospace executive who pledged to serve two years when Lamont appointed him Connecticut's first manufacturing chief in 2019.

Lavoie spoke out three years ago against the paid family and medical leave program and $15-hourly minimum wage, which were both signed into law by Lamont, but said he now looks at the issues differently.

Businesses once criticized the program for undermining the flexibility required to run a small business. Lavoie said the state will now relieve small companies of the cost of time off for an employee on maternity leave

"I think sometimes you have to look at these things from both sides," he said at an announcement ceremony at Mott Corp., a Farmington manufacturer of filtration and flow control equipment. "Does it give me a challenge on how to do business when your costs are increasing? We fight that every day in manufacturing."

Connecticut's manufacturers did not shut down during the pandemic, but still lost workers as the economy weakened and demand fell. The sector has added jobs as the labor force overall recovered from widespread business closings two years ago to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Turn to Manufacturer, *Page 2*

Connecticut Big Brothers Big Sisters programs merge

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Connecticut's Big Brothers Big Sisters programs have merged, and leaders of the new organization seek to surpass the number of boys and girls served before the coronavirus pandemic curbed referrals.

Completed Monday, the joining of Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Connecticut created Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut, which now serves the entire state.

Organization leaders say they are working to create more matches than ever between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles), ages 5 through young adulthood, in communities across the state.

The president and CEO of the new organization is Andy Fleischmann, of West Hartford, CEO at Nutmeg since 2011. The married father of two daughters was a 12-term state representative and has served as a Big Brother himself. He said in an interview Thursday that the benefits of matches are not one-sided.

Turn to Program, *Page 2*

Big Brother Pablo Figueroa and his Little Brother, Nyzaya, both of Hartford. **COURTESY**

Trooper injured when driver swerves off highway, hits police car in New Britain

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

A state trooper was injured Wednesday when a car swerved off the highway in New Britain and struck his parked patrol car, state police said.

Trooper Nathan Filippone, 23, was taken to The Hospital of Central Connecticut to be treated for head, neck and back injuries, police said. The driver of the other car, a 22-year-old woman from Commack, N.Y., was not injured.

According to the state police, the crash happened about 4:10 p.m., when Filippone was parked at the turnaround on Route 9 North, just north of the Exit 30 on-ramp. The woman was driving her 2005 Chrysler Sebring north, in the left lane, when she "swerved" to the left, went off the road and continued traveling on the snow-covered shoulder.

The car went onto the center median embankment, and she "continued along the embankment, towards the turnaround," striking the passenger side of Filippone's cruiser, state police said. They said they don't know why she went off the road.

The woman was given at ticket for failing to maintain established lane, police said.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Police: Cheney Tech student injured after being hit by car

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

A 15-year-old student at Howell Cheney Technical High School in Manchester was seriously injured Wednesday when she was hit by a car near the school, police said.

The teen was struck about 5:40 p.m. on New State Road, near the intersection with Hilliard Street. She was taken to Connecticut Children's to be treated for what police said are "significant, life-threatening injuries."

The 81-year-old driver stopped afterward and has been cooperating with investigators, police said. He was not injured. It wasn't clear Thursday if darkness was a factor; the sun set about a half-hour before the collision.

Officers from the Manchester Police Department Traffic Unit and the Metro Traffic Services Crash Reconstruction Team are investigating. Anyone who saw the collision or has information that may help them is asked to call Officer Kevin Jackson at 860-533-8651.

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Gov. Ned Lamont, left, speaks with Boris Levin, president and CEO of the Mott Corporation. Lamont was at Mott for a news conference to announce Paul Lavoie as Connecticut's chief manufacturing officer. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Virus

from Page 1

Nathan Grubaugh, an assistant professor of epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health who runs a lab tracking the spread of COVID-19 variants in Connecticut, noted on Thursday that cases of the new sub-variant of omicron, BA.2, make up less than 1% of the state's total COVID-19 cases.

All eight Connecticut counties — with nearly the rest of the country — remain at "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations

As of Thursday, Connecticut had 869 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, a decrease of 66 patients since Wednesday and the lowest the metric has been since late December.

Hospital officials say some patients hospitalized with COVID-19 were admitted for non-coronavirus reasons before testing positive upon arrival but that a majority have significant COVID-19 symptoms.

According to the state, 52.5% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is significantly higher when considering only patients with severe symptoms.

Deaths

Connecticut reported 175 additional COVID-19 deaths on Thursday, bringing its total during the pandemic to 10,083.

The United States has now recorded 895,826 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Thursday, 92.7% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 5 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 76.7% of all residents and 80.8% of those 5 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 51.1% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.

Manufacturer

from Page 1

The state posted 156,200 manufacturing jobs in December, up more than 5% since it hit bottom in April 2020, but still down 4,700 since the pre-pandemic peak.

The challenge now is that although manufacturers have plenty of work they must find workers. General Dynamics Electric Boat, for example, announced last week it plans to hire more than 3,000 workers this year to build submarines for the U.S. Navy.

State officials, businesses, community colleges, technical schools and others have established workforce development programs, but COVID-19 scrambled economic and workforce policies. Cooper said the number of open jobs in manufacturing is 40% greater than before the pandemic.

"The manufacturers have done their jobs," he said. "You've gone out, you've created demand for your goods and services. And now we need the people trained to fill the positions to make those goods and provide those services."

The chief manufacturing officer's job, which pays $145,314 a year, was established two years ago under circumstances not much different from now, though COVID-19 worsened workforce problems. Business owners and managers said then that despite efforts by the state to train new workers in vocational schools and community colleges, not enough qualified job candidates are available.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

Program

from Page 1

"Most of the Bigs I talk to say, 'I feel like I get even more out of this than my Little,'" Fleischmann said.

The stated mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to "provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever."

In Connecticut, about 80% of Littles are from low-income households, about 80% are kids of color and the same percentage are from single-parent or no-parent homes, Fleischmann said. The numbers are about evenly split between boys and girls. Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters has served about 1,000 kids each year since the pandemic began and about 1,400 before, Fleischmann said. The southwestern Connecticut program served roughly half those numbers.

The pandemic curtailed referrals from schools, agencies and families, Fleischmann said, but the goal now is to use the newly combined strength to create more matches throughout the state.

"We're excited to strengthen existing relationships with supporters and partners while also seeking out new partnerships that help us enroll more children, volunteers and families," he said.

The newly formed organization has a central office at 30 Laurel St. in Hartford and satellite offices at 2470 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, and 66 Franklin St. in Norwich.

"Economies of scale and access to new talent pools are often cited as key benefits of mergers," said Peter Lovell, president of the board of directors of the former Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Connecticut. "I agree. But, for me, the most important impact of this merger is that it increases the possibility that even more underserved children and families will now be able to benefit from supported mentoring relationships that have been the hallmark of Big Brothers Big Sisters since its founding in 1904."

The new organization has about 30 employees, including case managers who check in monthly with adult mentors, kids and their families. The organization asks new adult volunteers for a year-long commitment to start. The most important attribute for volunteers, Fleischmann said, is "a heartfelt concern for and commitment to a young person."

Potential Bigs are interviewed and undergo background checks and then an initial two-hour training session. Enrollment coordinators make the matches, and the average length of the relationships is three years, Fleischmann said.

For more information, visit bigsofct.org.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

PhoGo

from Page 1

American kid left behind," she said. "I couldn't get a job. They wouldn't hire me. So I had my own business, buying food in Saigon and bringing it back to my town and selling it. I took care of my family. But I wanted to get out of there."

In 1991, Sanducu immigrated to the United States with her mother, who is now 92 and lives in Manchester. Sanducu worked for years as a hairdresser and nail technician but opened PhoGo in Hartford in 2020.

"My neighbors raved about my food," Sanducu said. "My gift is to impress people with food. It's what I love to do."

In addition to pho — with chicken, beef, shrimp or no meat at all — PhoGo's menu includes rice and noodle bowls with beef, pork, chicken, shrimp or veggie; banh mi sandwiches of steak, chicken or pork; Vietnamese salad with shrimp, beef, pork or chicken; chili-hoisin chicken wings; lemongrass chicken dinner; a pork chop meal; bubble tea in 10 flavors; as well as egg rolls, spring rolls and dessert egg rolls with guava.

There is another pho restaurant in the shopping village but Sanducu isn't worried.

"Vietnam is like America. Everybody in their homes makes food differently. We have our own tastes in our family," she said.

The Sanducus hope to expand PhoGo even further. They already have set their sights on Glastonbury and Vernon, where they live.

PhoGo, at 41 East Main St. in Avon, is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Linda Sanducu, founder of PhoGo, learned how to cook Vietnamese food from her mother, who also was a restaurant owner. **SUSAN DUNNE/HARTFORD COURANT**

Apartment

from Page 1

Despite being so close to Route 4 and UConn Health, Prattling Pond Road is a narrow, nearly rural-looking road bounded by widely space, upscale houses.

Adding 131 apartments would "destroy their peaceful enjoyment of their home by light and noise by its excessive density," according to a lawsuit filed in August by Marjorie Shansky, the Zeytoonjians' attorney.

They claim the wetlands commission as well as the plan and zoning commission made errors when approving the project.

Sager's 402 Farmington Ave. LLC nevertheless has begun clearing the 18.5-acre property, which is mostly scrub, brush and woodlands just west of Farmington Avenue. Over the objection of neighbors, the plan and zoning commission in September granted a blasting permit for the developer.

Scores of neighbors fought Sager's original four-story proposal, which would have created a 46-foot-high building. But after that was scaled down to three floors, there has been less sign of widespread opposition.

When the town approved the project last summer, officials stipulated that he could build only three stories.

Timothy Hollister, Sager's attorney, said his client then redesigned the building by enclosing it on all four sides around an inner courtyard. That created enough additional space so that he could still have space for 131 apartments without expanding the building's footprint.

The court conducted a hearing on the wetlands appeal this week, and the plan and zoning commission appeal is expected to be heard later in the winter. If that stays on schedule, decisions are likely in both cases before midsummer.

Sager has projected that most of his tenants would be young workers from the nearby medical sciences corridor. He envisions a market of mostly people in their 30s who want the convenience of walking, biking or taking a short circulator bus ride to commute to work.

Farmington-based Metro Realty Group is wants to develop 146 apartments on a stretch of Route 4 that has become a medical and technology jobs corridor. Neighbors have gone to court to block the project. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Police: Man allegedly cyberstalked woman

Fain said to have sent victim, her family death threats on social media

Staff Report

A Connecticut man was arrested for allegedly threatening, harassing and intimidating a Massachusetts woman through social media and email, according to federal authorities.

Marshall Nicholas Fain, 31, of New Haven, is charged with one count of cyberstalking and one count of transmitting threats through interstate commerce, according to the office of Massachusetts U.S. Attorney Rachael S. Rollins.

Fain was arrested Wednesday and appeared in federal court in Boston before U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Jennifer C. Boal; he is being held in custody pending a detention hearing schedule for Feb. 8, federal authorities said in release.

Fain was known to the victim for approximately two years and, after the relationship ended, allegedly sent the victim multiple private messages through email and social media threatening to kill the victim and members of her family., federal authorities said in a statement, citing charging documents.

"Fain allegedly created multiple social media and email accounts which he used to harass and threaten the victim anonymously," the statement said. "Specifically, according to the charging documents, Fain used anonymous Instagram and Facebook accounts to send the victim" allegedly threatening messages.

Fain allegedly also used anonymous email addresses to send the victim threatening messages the statement said.

The charge of stalking by electronic means provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of $250,000, and the charge of transmitting threats through interstate commerce provides for a sentence of up to two years in prison, one year of supervised release and a fine of $250,000, the statement said. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation, New Haven Division, provided valuable assistance" in the case, authorities said.

Rep. Hayes' challenger calls for probe of her children's role in campaign

By Mark Pazniokas
CT Mirror

The campaign of U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes, D-5, employs two of the congresswoman's adult children as part-time staffers, a legal arrangement under federal campaign rules so long as the jobs are real and the pay is fair market.

But hours after the Daily Caller posted a story Tuesday night about the jobs, her Republican challenger, George Logan, called on the House Committee on Ethics to investigate the legitimacy of their employment.

Logan

"Jahana Hayes was elected to Congress to serve the residents of Connecticut, not enrich herself and her family," Logan said in a statement. "The Fifth District deserves a representative who puts people above profit."

Candidates for federal office are barred from using campaign funds for personal use, but salary payments to family members are allowed unless those payments exceed market value or if "bona fide service" is not provided.

Rep. Jahana Hayes, D-5., center, smiles on the first day of the 116th Congressin January 2019 at the Capitol in Washington. The campaign for Hayes employs two of the congresswoman's adult children as part-time staffers. Her Republican challenger, George Logan, called on the House Committee on Ethics to investigate the legitimacy of their employment. **J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP**

Hayes' campaign finance reports show twice-monthly payments of about $283 to David Crenshaw and about $360 to Asia Clermont, a son and daughter of the congresswoman.

Barbara Ellis, the manager of Hayes' reelection campaign, said Clermont handles campaign scheduling for her mother and Crenshaw does digital and tech support.

"There's nothing nefarious about this or nothing covert about it," Ellis said. "It's just been disclosed consistently, and it's allowable."

Hayes was elected in 2018, becoming the first Black Democrat elected to Congress from Connecticut and one of the first two Black women elected from New England.

Her campaign reported the first payment of $360.62 to Clermont on Aug. 15, 2019 and the first payment of $283.43 to Crenshaw on Dec. 13, 2019. The payments to Clermont totaled about $21,000; to Crenshaw, $15,000.

Hayes is a former national teacher of the year and was a Waterbury public schools administrator before her election. She is a married to a Waterbury police officer and is the mother of four children.

The 5th District of western Connecticut is Democratic-leaning but relatively competitive. The National Republican Campaign Committee has targeted the race.

Logan is a former state senator who lost his seat in 2020. He is director of community relations at Aquarion Water Company.

Fire in Manchester duplex displaces 16

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Sixteen people were displaced by a fire in a Manchester duplex Wednesday.

No one was injured by the fire at 216-218 Oak St., which was reported shortly before 5 p.m., said Craig Webb, battalion chief of Manchester Fire-Rescue-EMS. All residents were able to get out of the home on their own.

The duplex had significant damage to its second floor and attic, while the first floor had mostly smoke and water damage, he said.

Fire Marshal David Mauldin said the fire started on the second floor and quickly spread to the attic. The two-family house was built in the early 1900s and had no fire stops between the floors.

Firefighters were able to knock down most of the fire in about 20 minutes, he said, but it took much longer to completely extinguish the stubborn blaze.

The two families will not be able to move back in for a while, Mauldin said.

"The whole house is going to have to be gutted," he said.

The town worked with American Red Cross volunteers to find temporary housing for the residents. Nine of them lived in the apartment where the fire started, and seven lived in the other unit, he said. The families include about a half-dozen children.

The investigation showed that the fire started in a second-floor bedroom where a power strip had cellphone chargers in it, Mauldin said. Either the strip or a charger failed and sparked the fire, he said, which was an accident.

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

A firefighter works at the scene of a fire on Oak Street in Manchester on Wednesday. **COURTESY**

Former Rep. DiMassa's wife among recipients of payments he OK'd before his arrest

Documents show official paid two women more than $182,000 with taxpayer funds

By Andrew Brown
CT Mirror

The city of West Haven paid more than $182,000 over the past two years to two women who are linked to Michael DiMassa, the former state Democratic lawmaker and municipal employee who was accused last fall of wire fraud in the diversion of federal COVID-19 relief funds.

Newly released documents from the city show that more than $147,000 in taxpayer money went to Lauren Knox, who wed DiMassa in October 2021, just before he was arrested by the FBI and charged with federal wire fraud.

The records also document $34,250 that was paid to Erika Pocock, a former Republican legislative staffer who is shown with DiMassa in a January 2020 social media post captioned "Date night."

DiMassa's signature appears on all of the payment vouchers.

Knox and Pocock did not respond to calls and emails for this story. Neither did DiMassa or his defense attorney, John Gulash. West Haven's finance director, Frank Cieplinski, also did not respond to an email seeking comment.

West Haven Mayor Nancy Rossi on Tuesday denied any prior knowledge of the payments to Knox or Pocock, and she said all of the payments to the women could be considered "fraudulent."

"This is fraud. It shouldn't have happened. But it did happen," Rossi said.

"This was a theft, like thefts happen in banks, like thefts happen in financial institutions," Rossi said. "We are doing our best to correct it and move forward."

It isn't clear if those payments are part of any ongoing investigation.

A member of the state's Municipal Accountability Review Board, which has overseen West Haven's finances since 2018, also raised concerns about the transactions.

Patrick Egan said the payments to the two women should prompt the state to order a comprehensive review of every contract and expense approved by the city over the past three years.

"I think every expenditure of that city, probably for the last 36 months, should be audited and justified," said Egan, who has been an outspoken critic of West Haven's government for several years.

Egan attributed the questionable expenditures to the lack of controls within West Haven government and the failure of the city's elected leaders to get their finances in order. Those are problems that auditors and MARB members have been pointing out for years, he said.

"This is a problem from the top down," Egan said. "The fact is there has just been a continued failure to be good stewards of the taxpayer money in West Haven."

$12,500 worth of tote bags

Knox and Pocock were paid for a variety of services and supplies, according to the invoices and payment vouchers.

The documents show Knox was paid for a "youth violence prevention program." She billed the city through that program for various travel costs, staffing costs, personal protective equipment, computer equipment and services that are described as "in-home counseling" and "students with special needs."

One of the payment vouchers suggested that program ended in October 2020, and an invoice included a notation that reads "As instructed by City — No new Individuals will be accepted into 20/21 Program Year."

But Knox continued to bill the city long after that point, reporting that the extra money she charged was for "additional costs," "program fees," and "COVID-19 overage charges."

Documents show the city of West Haven paid more than $182,000 to two women who are linked to Michael DiMassa, center, the former state Democratic lawmaker and municipal employee who was accused last fall of wire fraud in the diversion of federal COVID-19 relief funds. **MARK MIRKO/ HARTFORD COURANT**

West Haven's annual audit from 2020 shows the city received nearly $113,000 in grant funding from the state's Judicial Branch to cover expenses related to youth violence prevention initiatives. But it's unclear from the city's records whether the payments that went to Knox came from that grant.

The violence prevention grant money from the state, Rossi said, was intended to go to things like summer camps for kids and other related activities. But she didn't know whether that was the fund from which Knox was paid.

The $34,250 Pocock received, on the other hand, was largely for materials, which the city's records referred to as an "essential supplies giveaway."

Invoices from Pocock show charges for 5,000 bottles of hand sanitizer at $1.25 each, 10,000 hand sanitizer wipes at $0.20 each, 10,000 cotton face masks at $0.50 each, 5,000 waterproof containers to hold vaccine cards at $1.30 each, and 5,000 tote bags — at $2.50 each — branded for West Haven's centennial celebration last year.

It's unclear why Pocock's company, which operates under the name Koda Lane, was chosen to supply those items to the city. Her business's website shows that it specializes in women's clothing, skin care products and fashion accessories.

DiMassa's authority and lack of bids

The checks that were cut to the two women are also raising questions about why DiMassa had such a free hand in spending tens of thousands of dollars in taxpayer money.

Rossi could not answer why DiMassa, who was an hourly employee, was able to sign off on payment vouchers within the city government, even though that power is supposed to rest with the heads of each city department.

In December 2020, the city council appointed DiMassa to oversee roughly $1.1 million in federal CARES Act funding, of which he is now accused of stealing more than half.

But that doesn't explain why he was able to sign off on the payments to Knox and Pocock. Many of the payments issued to Knox, for instance, were approved long before the council gave DiMassa authority over the CARES Act funding.

According to Rossi, the business deals that the two women entered into with the city were never offered to other companies, as West Haven's laws require.

The city's charter mandates that any supply or service contract that is valued at more than $10,000 should be put out for bid so the city can sort through competing offers and get the best price for taxpayers.

There are exemptions to those rules in the case of emergencies, but if the city wants to sidestep the public bidding process and hand-pick a company, the mayor is required to sign off on the move.

The city's department leaders are also required to explain to the city council in writing why normal purchasing procedures could not be followed.

There is no evidence that ever happened.

"Any contracts over $10,000 in the city of West Haven are supposed to go out to bid," Rossi said, "but again, if you're committing fraud, you're not going to go through the proper channels."

Former West Haven Mayor Ed O'Brien, who was defeated in a Democratic primary election by Rossi in 2017, said there was obviously a serious breakdown in the city's finance department.

West Haven's elected leaders, he said, need to investigate why nobody within the city's finance department halted the payment vouchers that had DiMassa's signature on them.

"If I was currently the mayor, that's where I would investigate first," said O'Brien, who announced another run for mayor last year but did not make it onto the ballot after missing a deadline to register. "How does that happen? How does an hourly employee just sign off on a voucher?"

"Maybe him being a state representative, they just looked the other way," he said, "or they thought he had the authority to do that. But he was not a department head."

DiMassa is due back in federal court on March 10.

1/2

PUBLIC NOTICES

City of Bristol, Connecticut
INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the Purchasing Department for the City of Bristol, Connecticut is accepting sealed responses on the following:
2A22-064 On-Call Tree Removal & Pruning Services through December 2022; bids due February 24, 2022 at 1:00 pm
Proposal submissions will be accepted by the Purchasing Department until the date and time noted above; submissions received after this date and time will not be considered. Interested firms are required to submit one original copy via digital media of the proposal to Roger Rousseau, Purchasing Agent, no later than the date and time noted above. Submissions may be made via email, shared file service, or USB drive delivered to the address noted below; the City does not assume responsibility for failure of submissions to be received by the City by the date and time noted above.
The successful bidder shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.
Plans and specifications can be obtained online at the website below, or by contacting:
City of Bristol Purchasing Department
111 North Main St, Bristol, CT 06010
Tel. (860) 584-6195
Fax (860) 584-6171
http://www.bristolct.gov/bids
2/4/2022 7142635

TOWN OF CROMWELL
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF DECISION

At its regular meeting on January 18, 2022 the Town of Cromwell Planning and Zoning Commission met and took the following actions:

1. Voted to approve with conditions Application #21-31: Request for Site Plan Modification at 60 Hicksville Road to allow for construction of additional parking spaces and parking lot improvements. Adelbrook, Inc.is the Applicant and the Owner.

Alice Kelly
Chairman

Dated in Cromwell, Connecticut this the 27th day January of 2022.
2/4/22 7138935

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF DEEP RIVER
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Deep River Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Videoconference, for the following:

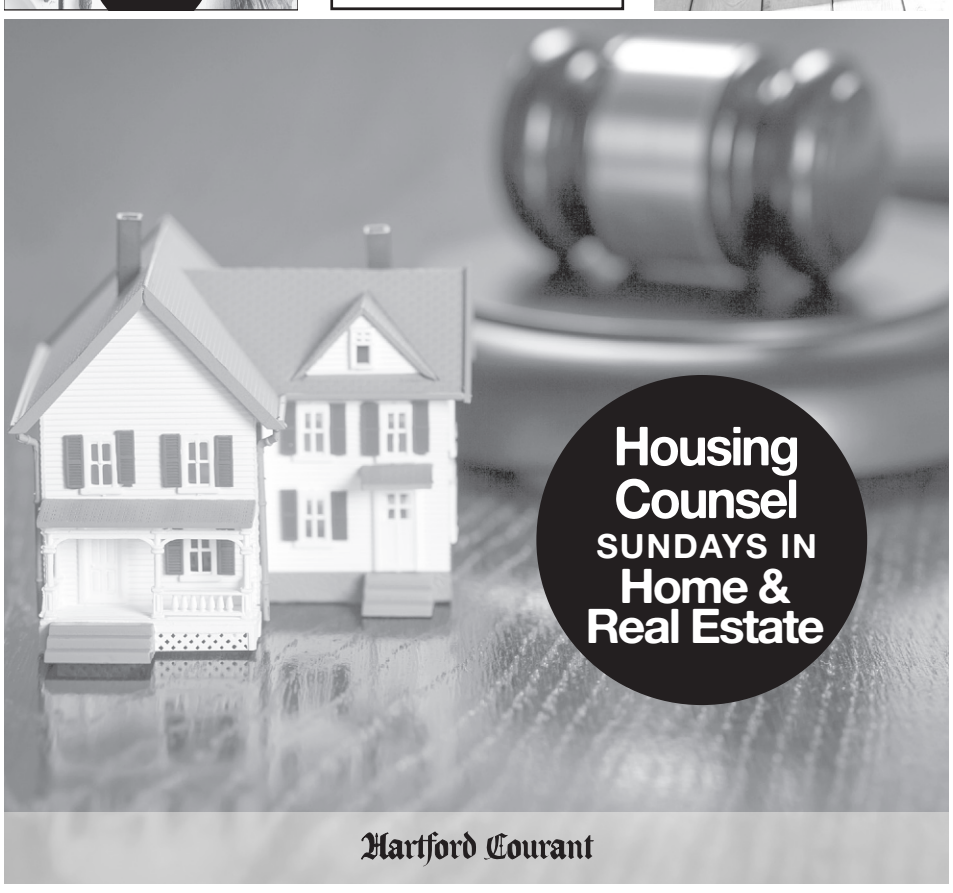
a. Subdivision Application, one lot subdivision of 164 Cedar Lake Road (Map 16, Lot 2A); Applicant: Ronald Prisley.

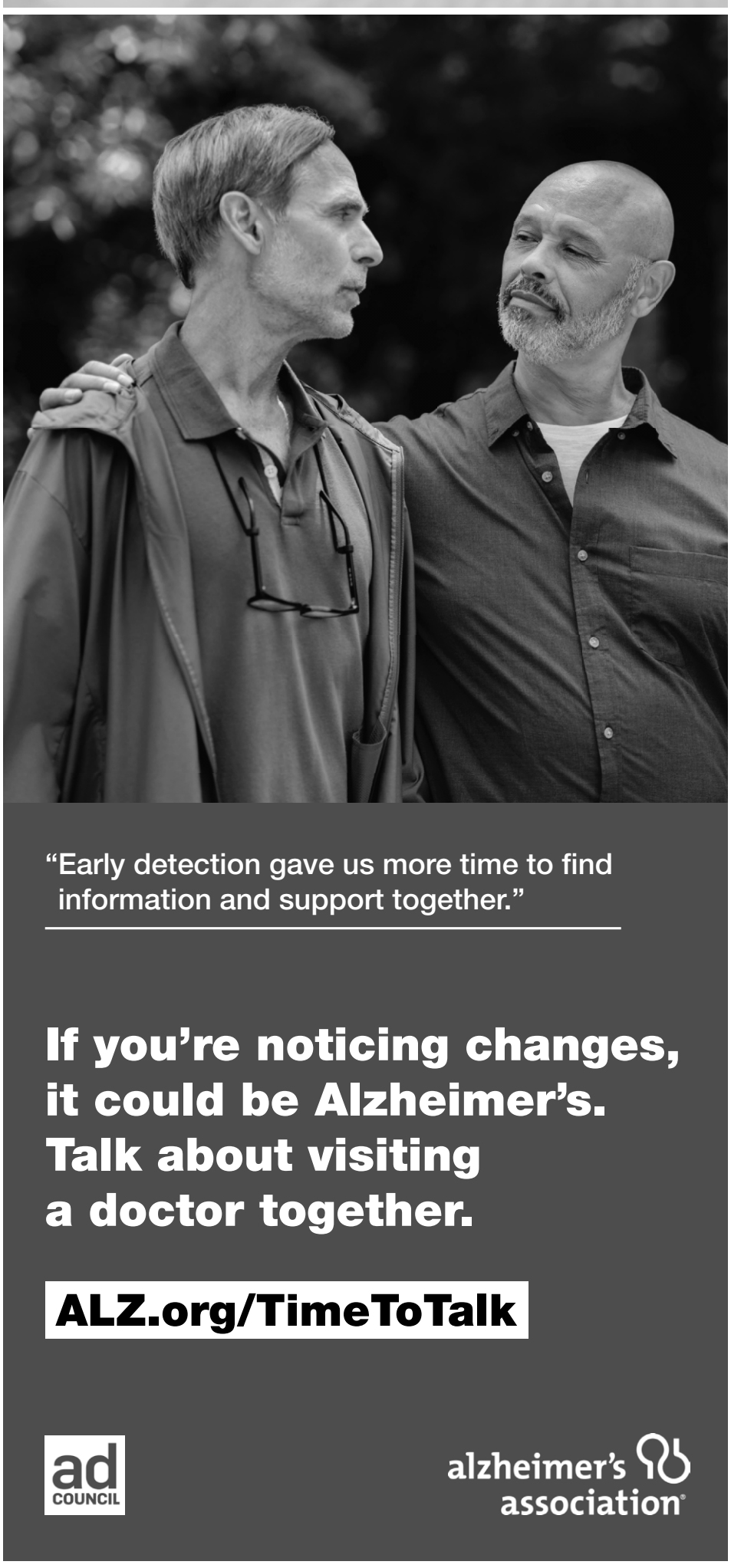
b. Text Amendment to Zoning Regulations, Section 7B.11, Accessory Apartments; Applicant: Deep River Planning & Zoning Commission.

c. Text Amendment to Subdivision Regulations, Section 5.8, Open Space; Applicant: Deep River Planning & Zoning Commission.

The public may speak and submit written communications until the close of the public hearing. Details zoning@deepriverct.us or available in the Land Use Office.

Anthony Bolduc
Chairman
2/4, 2/11/2022 7142664





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First Arabic Netflix film sparks controversy

Tackling taboos re-ignites debate over artistic freedom, religious sensitivities

By Mariam Fam
Associated Press

Characters from the Arabic-language film "Ashab Wala A'azz," which means "No Dearer Friends." **RUDY BOU CHEBEL/NETFLIX**

CAIRO — A Lebanese father tells his teenage daughter she is free to choose whether to have sex with her boyfriend despite his reservations.

An Egyptian wife discreetly slips off her black, lacy underwear from under her clothes before heading out for dinner, and it's not her husband she's trying to tantalize.

And in a dramatic moment, a man reveals that he is gay, a secret he has kept from his longtime friends who are shocked — but seem mostly accepting.

The scenes in the first Arabic Netflix movie have sparked a public drama as intense as the one that plays out on screen. On social media and TV talk shows and among friends in Egypt and other Middle East countries, a torrent of critics have denounced the film as a threat to family and religious values, encouraging homosexuality and unfit for Arab societies. Others have rallied to the film's defense, saying detractors are in denial about what happens behind closed doors in real life. Those who don't like the movie, they argue, are free to not subscribe to Netflix or simply skip the film.

Titled "Ashab Wala A'azz," which means "No Dearer Friends," the movie is an Arabic version of the Italian hit "Perfect Strangers," which has inspired many other international remakes. It tells the story of seven friends at a dinner party gone wrong after the host suggests that, as a game, they agree to share any calls, text and voice messages. As smartphones buzz, secrets are revealed, infidelities are exposed, and relationships are tested.

The controversy has re-ignited debates in the region over artistic freedom versus social and religious sensitivities; censorship; what constitutes a taboo in different societies and portrayal of gay characters.

One irony is that Netflix in the Middle East shows many non-Arabic movies and series that feature gay characters in a positive light, premarital and extramarital sex and even nudity — which is typically banned in cinemas in the region — with little outcry.

But to see those themes broached in an Arabic-language movie with Arab actors went too far for some. (The movie has no nudity; it's largely an hour and half of people talking around a dinner table.)

"I think if it's a normal foreign movie, I will be OK. But because it's an Arabic movie, I didn't accept it," said 37-year-old Elham an Egyptian who asked for her last name to be withheld due to the sensitivity of the topic. "We don't accept the idea of homosexuality or intimate relations before marriage in our society, so what happened was a cultural shock."

Homosexuality is a particularly strong taboo in Egypt: A 2013 survey by the Pew Research Center found that 95% in the country say it should be rejected by society; in Lebanon, that number stood at 80% at the time.

The movie's cast are mostly prominent Lebanese stars, and its events are set in Lebanon. There, it has garnered many positive reviews. Fans said it discussed relatable topics away from stereotypes that are usually attached to gay characters or cheating spouses on screen.

It's not the first time that an Arabic-language movie has featured gay characters.

Most famously, the 2006 movie "The Yacoubian Building" with a cast of A-list Egyptian actors caused a stir for, among other things, including a gay main character. But the character was ultimately killed by his lover in what many saw as punishment.

In contrast, the gay character in "Ashab Wala A'azz" is not depicted negatively. Another character encourages him to expose his former employers who let him go for his sexual identity.

Fatima Kamal, a 43-year-old Egyptian, said she didn't find it to be promoting same-sex relationships. She argued that some Egyptian movies in the past were more daring.

"The movie touched on issues that the society refuses to confront but they do happen," she said. "We all have a dark side and hidden stories."

Kamal, who has a 12-year-old son, also dismissed the idea the film would corrupt Arab youth. "Technology has changed society. Restricting movies is not the answer," she said. "The solution is to watch based on age ratings and to talk to the young and make them understand that not everything we see on the screen is OK."

Talking on a popular TV show, Egyptian lawmaker Mostafa Bakry contended Egyptian and Arab family values are being targeted.

"This is neither art nor creativity," he said. "We must ban Netflix from being in Egypt" even if temporarily.

Magda Maurice, an art critic debating Bakry on the show, disagreed. "This movie exposes what mobile phones do to people and to their normal lives," she said.

"You cannot ban anything now but you can confront it with good art," she added. "Banning has become a thing of the past."

In Egypt, much of the furor focused on the sole Egyptian woman in the cast, Mona Zaki, one of the country's biggest stars. Her character is the one seen slipping off her underwear, a gesture that many critics decried as scandalous.

In social media, some attacked her for participating in the film. The online abuse extended to actors who supported her or praised her performance. Some criticized her real-life husband, an Egyptian movie star in his own right, for "allowing" her to play the role.

The Egyptian actors syndicate came out in support of Zaki, saying it will not abide verbal abuse or intimidation against actors over their work. It said that freedom of creativity "is protected and defended by the syndicate," while adding that it is committed to the values of Egyptian society.

Film critic Khaled Mahmoud said Egypt "used to produce powerful and daring movies in the 1960s and 1970s." But much of that adventurousness has been lost with the trend of so-called "clean cinema," emphasizing themes deemed family appropriate with no physical intimacy or immodest attire, he added. "Society has changed, and the viewership culture has become flawed."

Story lines about affairs or sexual relations are not uncommon in Arabic films. But female stars are commonly grilled in interviews over whether they would agree to wear swimsuits or kiss co-stars on camera.

"Our job is to let art be art," Mahmoud said. "We cannot critique art through a moral lens."

CELEBRITIES

NAACP Image Awards to fete Jackson

From news services

Samuel L. Jackson will receive the Chairman's Award during the NAACP Image Awards. **VIANNEY LE CAER/INVISION 2019**

Samuel L. Jackson will receive the Chairman's Award during the 53rd NAACP Image Awards this month. The NAACP announced Thursday that it will bestow the actor, 73, with the award, which recognizes individuals who demonstrate "exemplary public service and use their distinct platforms to create agents of change."

"Many might not know that prior to his acting career, Jackson was a staunch activist during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, even serving as an usher at Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral," Leon W. Russell, chairman of the NAACP National Board of Directors, said in a statement. "His continued public service and advocacy for social change make him an excellent recipient for the Chairman's Award."

Jackson, who has appeared in more than 100 films, is known for his portrayal of Jules in Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction" and as Gator Purify in Spike Lee's "Jungle Fever."

The awards will air Feb. 26 on BET.

Giuliani revealed on 'Masked Singer': Rudy Giuliani, the subject of multiple investigations surrounding his support for former President Donald Trump, was shockingly unmasked at a taping of Fox's "The Masked Singer" last week, sparking judges Ken Jeong and Robin Thicke to walk off the set in protest, according to multiple reports.

The show recently began filming its seventh season, and Giuliani was the first contestant eliminated, Deadline reported. Jeong and Thicke, reportedly furious, stormed off set, according to TMZ. They eventually returned. Judges Jenny McCarthy and Nicole Scherzinger didn't go anywhere, Deadline reported.

Fox did not comment. The episode will reportedly air in March.

'Dune' leads BAFTA nods: Sci-fi epic blockbuster "Dune" and Jane Campion's dark Western "The Power Of The Dog" lead the nominations for this year's British Academy Film Awards.

"Dune" received 11 nominations Thursday including best film, cinematography and original score. "The Power of the Dog," starring Benedict Cumberbatch, follows close behind with eight nominations, including best director and best film. Kenneth Branagh's semi-autobiographical "Belfast" was also nominated for best film and five other categories. The other two contenders for best film are "Don't Look Up," the disaster comedy starring Leonardo DiCaprio, and coming-of-age drama "Licorice Pizza."

DiCaprio and Cumberbatch are among those nominated in the leading actor category, along with Will Smith, who received his first BAFTA nomination for his role in "King Richard." The leading actress list included Lady Gaga for "House of Gucci," Alana Haim for "Licorice Pizza" and Emilia Jones for "Coda."

The winners will be announced March 13.

Parton to host ACMs: Country music icon Dolly Parton will host this year's Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas. Parton, along with soon to be announced co-hosts, will emcee the new format for the show, which will be livestreamed March 7 without commercials on Amazon Prime Video. Nominees will be announced next week.

Feb. 4 birthdays: Actor Jerry Adler is 93. Actor Gary Conway is 86. Singer Alice Cooper is 74. Singer Clint Black is 60. Actor Rob Corddry is 51. Actor Michael Goorjian is 51. TV personality Nicolle Wallace is 50. Singer Natalie Imbruglia is 47. Actor Ashley Thomas is 37. Actor Charlie Barnett is 34. Actor Kyla Kenedy is 19.

ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson
askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Spouse spins wheels on business ventures

Dear Amy: My wife is a wonderful person who has left nursing after more than 10 years, due to burnout and differences with our medical industry.

She is looking for a new path and for two years has pursued life coaching and is looking into other business opportunities.

While she has many strong attributes, being a natural entrepreneur is not one of them.

I want to be supportive, but it's hard watching my loved one spin her wheels pursuing dead-end ventures.

We both may be looking to leverage our equity for a business loan soon.

I already have partners, a business plan, and contracts and customers lined up, and I just don't see the potential in her business ideas (I say ideas because there is no business plan). How can I be supportive?

— Loving Husband

Dear Husband: In an honest, earnest relationship, it should not be necessary to endorse every idea your partner has in order to be supportive. Nor is it wise — in the name of being supportive — to go into debt to fund a business idea that isn't yet viable, even on paper.

Sometimes, being a frank broker — and offering to talk things through and provide considerate feedback — is the best way to be supportive.

Accurate statistics on the failure rate of new businesses are a little squishy (depending in part on how "failure" is defined), but the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that 24% of businesses failed in the first year, and 48% didn't make it past the second year — prepandemic.

(It is also safe to assume that many small businesses that don't fail don't actually turn a profit for many months.)

If you and your wife are prepared for the downside and your family can afford to fund two entrepreneurial ventures (one or both of which may fail), then you might be able to endorse one another's dreams without question. But a failure in this regard would prove a huge strain on your financial future, as well as your relationship.

I suggest that you and your wife might want to "pitch" to each other in a scheduled and formalized setting (even if it is at your kitchen table), presenting your ideas, plans and market research, followed by a frank discussion about the pros and cons of each business. She critiques your plan, you critique hers, and you both discuss — as a team.

You should also discuss the impact of your start-ups on your household expenses, such as housing costs and health insurance.

Dear Amy: I've been married to my husband for 28 years. Before we married, we had regular relations, but after the wedding we rarely did, and I always had to instigate it.

We have two lovely children that I stayed home to raise. My husband has a decent job, but we barely get by.

A few years ago, I learned he has cheated on me since the birth of our first child. This broke my heart. I feel so betrayed. The worst part is that he was with prostitutes. I am so disgusted.

I now live with an STD.

I wanted to divorce him, but I didn't want my children to go through all of that and have a dad that lived out of a car, because that's what would happen if we divorced.

He halfway apologized and swore he'd go to counseling. My children don't know because I'm so embarrassed.

If I bring up the counseling, he rolls his eyes. We sleep in separate rooms.

He's Mr. Goodtime guy, whom everyone likes.

How do I get rid of this rage I have for him?

— Sad in San Diego

Dear Sad: You should not wait for years for your husband to join you in counseling. Go yourself!

The job market is good right now; I hope you will pursue employment and financial independence, in order to increase your options.

Dear Amy: "Sad Pet Mom" needs to fill the void in her life after her dog's death with the rescue of a new dog.

A new dog will not replace her lost pup, but will fill that space in her heart with a new joy and love.

It has worked for me.

— Been There

Dear Been There: I'm glad this has worked for you, but I respectfully disagree that this would work for every grieving pet family.

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10 films that stood out at Sundance festival

By Lindsey Bahr and Jake Coyle
Associated Press

Dispatches from the Sundance Film Festival are usually accompanied by descriptions of the looming mountains, snowy premieres and frantic bus shuttles. This year's Sundance, which played out entirely virtually due to the COVID-19 surge driven by the omicron variant, meant less evocative screening circumstances: Laptops, digital links and Zooms. But even in reduced form, the films were often hypnotic, thrilling and urgent. Here are 10 films that stood out at the virtual Sundance.

Yan Jiaqi, from left, Wu'er Kaixi and Wan Runnan appear in the documentary "The Exiles." **CHRISTINE CHOY/SUNDANCE INSTITUTE**

'Fire of Love': Katia and Maurice Krafft were married French volcanologists who spent their lives documenting the world's volcanoes and died during one such expedition in Japan in 1991. Werner Herzog used them briefly in "Into the Inferno," but the Kraffts and their stunning photographs and 16-millimeter films get the spotlight in Sara Dosa's "Fire of Love," a mesmerizing and almost mystical portrait of love and the extremes of the natural world to be released by National Geographic. With a synthy indie pop score (including Brian Eno and Air), Miranda July narration and experimental editing, it's like Mike Mills meets Terrence Malick meets Guy Maddin.

'Descendant': Margaret Brown's documentary concerns the discovery of the Clotilda, a schooner submerged in Alabama's Mobile River in 1860, considered to be the last known slave ship to bring enslaved Africans to the United States. But Brown's film, which was acquired by Netflix and Barack and Michelle Obama's High Ground Productions, excavates far more than the Clotilda. In taking a wide lens to the descendants of the ship and the present-day circumstances of Africatown near Mobile, where many of the survivors settled, "Descendant" lyrically ruminates on the legacy of slavery in America, telescoping past and present like few films before it.

'Cha Cha Real Smooth': On paper, this movie looks like something that came out of a round of mad-libs: Aimless college grad gets hired by local mothers to be a party starter on the local bar-mitzvah circuit and strikes up a friendship with a young single mom of an autistic teenage daughter. Yet Cooper Raiff's sophomore film, which he stars in alongside Dakota Johnson, is never what you expect. Sweet, funny and moving, this is a small, indie trope-defying gem that'll be on Apple TV+ this year.

'The Exiles': Sundance's grand jury prize winner for documentary is a sometimes awkwardly balanced fusion of essentially two films that nevertheless makes for a profound examination of political dissent and missed opportunity for change. "The Exiles," which is directed by Ben Klein and Violet Columbus and executive produced by Steven Soderbergh, seems initially like a portrait of Christine Choy, the brash Oscar-nominated filmmaker and professor. Choy has more than enough personality to fill a character study, but she's a framing device here. "The Exiles" leans on footage Choy shot in the aftermath of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre with a handful of Chinese protesters in New York. Decades later, Choy and the filmmakers meet with those long-exiled dissidents again to consider their sacrifice and unfinished battles for freedom. The binding tissue of "The Exiles" is a firm, fiery belief that uncompromisingly outspoken is the only way to live.

'We Need to Talk About Cosby': Bill Cosby's descent was fairly definitive. And yet even with his (brief) imprisonment and the wider cultural #MeToo reckoning, director W. Kamau Bell had a feeling that we had not yet fully processed what had happened to the man once known as America's Dad. And indeed the four-part docuseries "We Need to Talk About Cosby," rolling out on Showtime, delivers on its title. Bell talks to survivors, colleagues and cultural commentators about Cosby's life, career, impact and misdeeds, in his own attempt to grapple with the downfall of someone he and many others once thought of as hero.

'Emily the Criminal': The burden of student loan debt is taken to darkly electrifying extremes in first-time writer-director John Patton Ford's taut neo-noir thriller. Most of all, it's a showcase for Aubrey Plaza, who plays a desperate young Los Angeles woman drawn into a criminal underworld through high-paying but dangerous scams (with a charming Theo Rossi) that slyly critique modern-day economic injustices. The always engrossing Plaza, also a producer on the film, has never been more potent.

'The Princess': There are so many accounts of Diana's life, struggles, death and legacies that even the idea of another film just sounds exhausting. But "The Princess," coming to HBO this year, is something else entirely. Director Ed Perkins tells the story of her public life using only archival footage, including news broadcasts, man-on-the-street interviews, talk show segments, b-roll and outtakes. Looking at us looking at her is an immersive, moving and revelatory experience.

'Navalny': Daniel Roher's documentary of the imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny is a riveting, occasionally farcical, often alarming portrait of a still-unspooling real-life geopolitical drama. The film, which HBO Max and CNN will release later this year, was both the documentary audience award winner and the overall audience winner at Sundance. That's a testament to Roher's film and to Navalny's audacious, entertaining manner.

'Good Luck to You, Leo Grande': Emma Thompson plays a somewhat repressed widow who hires a sex worker (Daryl McCormack) in "Good Luck to You, Leo Grande," a charming (and slightly blue) chamber piece about finding yourself later in life that Searchlight Pictures will release on Hulu. Sophie Hyde directs off a script from Katy Brand, that turns what could have been a cheap gimmick into a terrifically witty, sophisticated, adult comedy.

'The Janes': Unlawful, underground Chicago syndicates have long been the stuff of movies. But the HBO film "The Janes," directed by Tia Lessin and Emma Pildes, documents a lesser known chapter in history, with overwhelming relevance to today. Lessin and Pildes' film chronicles the Jane Collective, a group of women who banded together in the late '60s and early '70s to offer illegal abortions to women who needed them, in the years before Roe v. Wade. In "The Janes," those women — now in their 60s and 70s — compelling tell their story, many of them for the first time on camera.

Alan Ritchson, left, in the series "Reacher," with Martin Roach. **AMAZON PRIME VIDEO**

Alan Ritchson masters different fighting methods for 'Reacher'

By Peter Sblendorio
New York Daily News

To embody action hero Jack Reacher in a new series, actor Alan Ritchson wanted to do things by the book.

Aiming for a "Reacher" portrayal true to the popular novels that introduced the hulking character more than two decades ago, Ritchson bulked up by 30 pounds and went through intense combat training.

"I'll say about the fights, I've done a lot of those in my career," Ritchson said. "I've played superheroes and a Ninja Turtle and a UFC fighter. I've run the gamut, and I've done a lot of that, but seeing the 'Reacher' fights, it was the first time that I've ever said to a stunt coordinator, 'I'm not sure I can do that. Where do we begin?' "

The new series — now streaming on Amazon Prime Video — is an adaptation of 1997's "Killing Floor," the first of author Lee Child's novels to center on the Reacher character.

The show introduces Ritchson's Reacher as a former Army police officer who happens to show up in the sleepy town of Margrave, Georgia, just as a string of murders begins to mystify local authorities.

The series marks the newest addition to a Jack Reacher franchise that also includes 26 novels — and two movies starring Tom Cruise as the character.

Ritchson, 39, read the 24 books that had been released by the time he was cast in the "Reacher" series, and enjoyed learning the character has a sense of humor and sometimes has to pay the consequences for his mistakes.

"He's also somebody with a propensity to violence," Ritchson said. "He blurs the line between good and evil. This is somebody who we're not really sure if he's all good. He cares deeply about protecting the innocent and bringing about justice, but he'll do it in a way where the body count gets high."

Ritchson previously portrayed Raphael in the live-action "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" films, a fighter in the MMA movie "Above the Shadows," Aquaman on "Smallville" and Hawk for the DC Comics series "Titans."

His training for "Reacher" involved mastering fighting methods that differed from what he'd done in past roles.

"It took every minute that we had to get there, but they patiently sort of deconstructed my fight style and rebuilt this much more precise fighting style," Ritchson said.

Ritchson and the show's makers shared the goal of bringing "the most authentic version of Reacher to life," the actor said. And he believes Reacher continues to connect with readers and audiences because he's a hero anyone can get behind.

"As long as there's injustice in the world, and there's corruption, greed, (and) that villains exist and get away with murder, that institutions triumph over the individual, we will crave a hero to come along and bring balance to that disorder," Ritchson said. "Somebody who will take the law into their own hands and just fix things for us."

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Something needs to be done — the question is what? Discontent might make you feel that you need to get moving. Being clear about your feelings isn't a bad thing. People around you aren't trying to put a damper on your day.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You might be kept on your toes today. Chances are high that you're craving some peace and quiet. Your opinion might be swayed if you gain recognition — perhaps the path you want to follow right now relates to that. Taking the time to contemplate your options today can avoid problems tomorrow.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Success is almost within your grasp! Regardless of any obstacles, it'll probably be worth it for you to do things your way. That doesn't mean you want to act alone, but you make your own decisions. Understand the difference between procrastination and waiting.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Getting what you want will be much easier when it's in line with what other people want. If their potential opinions bother you, ask them directly. Think of it this way — no matter what they say, you'll have a clear answer to work with rather than anxious speculation.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You might be a little over-optimistic about your capabilities! Even though you're likely to get the favors you want right now, you will have to pay them back. Take a moment and make sure that whatever you want is worth it! Don't rush into things. Do your best to be reasonable.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Resentment may churn in your heart if someone else takes the initiative and tries to pull you along without asking what you wanted to do. It's good to stand up for yourself, but keep in mind that it isn't just about you. There's no need to be dramatic. Everything should turn out just fine in the end!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A lot of voices could be shouting different opinions at the moment. Sometimes you simply have to keep moving through the chaos. Try to keep any commentary to yourself. Remember that this is temporary. Think things through before opening your mouth.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Taking a risk could pay off in a big way today! Things are more likely to go your way. Once you're aware of the details, it'll be easier to make everything work smoothly. You should be able to fulfill your responsibilities — you might even discover some items that can wait until tomorrow.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Paying some extra attention to your home life at the moment can nip problems in the bud. There may be some fun and games on offer later, and you'll be able to dive in and enjoy yourself more once you've removed any potential stress. Pay close attention to how you talk.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Today is likely to be really hectic. As soon as you've paid attention to one thing, three more pop up. Staying as grounded as possible is the best approach — even if that's easier said than done! Focus on is getting your finances in order. Things are a lot more positive than you'd thought.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make some waves right now, but make sure it's only a splash and not a tsunami — especially when it comes to your finances. It may be all too easy to let money trickle through your fingers! You're capable of being sensible when you need to be, but give yourself a few reminders.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Today, you can be more confident than usual about asking for what you need and making sure you get it. If what you need is outside of your comfort zone, you might prefer to stay tightly snuggled in it instead. That isn't necessarily a problem — unless you use it as an excuse to procrastinate.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Feb. 4, 1789, electors chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.

In 1801, John Marshall was confirmed as chief justice of the United States.

In 1861, delegates from six Southern states that had recently seceded from the Union met in Montgomery, Alabama, to form the Confederate States of America.

In 1913, Rosa Parks, a Black woman who in 1955 refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus to a white man sparked a civil rights revolution, was born Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began a wartime conference at Yalta.

In 2004, the social network Facebook had its beginnings as Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg launched "Thefacebook."

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

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SUDOKU

3				7			6	
				6		9		1
5	2						3	
		8			6			
	9			2			7	
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	4			1				5

Level: 1 **2** 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

3	1	9	4	7	5	2	6	8
8	7	4	3	6	2	9	5	1
5	2	6	8	9	1	4	3	7
1	3	8	7	4	6	5	9	2
4	9	5	1	2	3	8	7	6
2	6	7	5	8	9	1	4	3
7	5	1	2	3	4	6	8	9
6	8	2	9	5	7	3	1	4
9	4	3	6	1	8	7	2	5

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By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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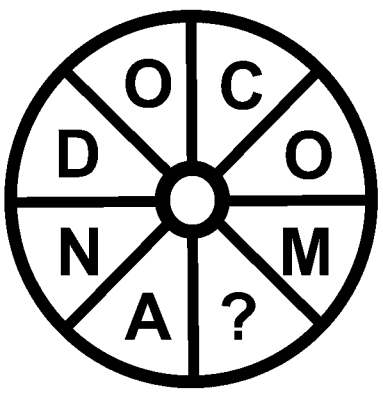
WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

COMMANDO

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: stop it

283

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

B	S	X	C	C	L	O	S	E	F	I	N	I	S	H	Y	B	O
Z	O	T	D	C	O	N	C	L	U	S	I	O	N	G	H	K	K
L	T	L	O	I	V	M	B	L	O	C	K	L	H	L	A	S	T
Q	O	E	T	P	S	U	P	D	Q	O	X	S	E	P	H	I	W
H	R	H	R	K	L	C	W	L	R	M	O	B	H	A	F	N	T
B	L	K	W	M	R	R	O	E	E	B	A	R	S	H	V	T	D
X	Z	A	O	I	I	B	D	N	I	T	D	E	M	I	S	E	E
T	R	S	H	U	T	N	R	K	T	W	E	A	N	A	A	R	S
S	E	A	L	N	I	H	A	A	C	I	I	K	R	T	X	C	T
W	T	O	I	H	R	M	D	T	K	E	N	N	I	U	I	E	I
H	F	I	S	T	A	Y	P	R	E	E	A	U	D	S	N	P	N
O	I	D	L	C	G	T	F	E	A	K	Q	S	E	U	G	T	A
A	N	D	H	L	O	S	C	S	D	W	U	H	E	Z	P	X	T
E	A	E	G	L	A	V	A	F	K	E	A	G	H	O	V	N	I
J	L	S	C	I	L	C	T	T	K	Z	V	L	I	A	P	P	O
V	E	I	B	M	Z	C	C	C	X	H	L	R	Y	B	L	C	N
G	D	S	Q	I	V	Q	H	E	P	U	A	R	R	E	S	T	P
M	J	T	B	T	Q	H	C	U	L	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N

ARREST	CONCLUSION	HIATUS	SEAL
AXING	CULMINATION	HINDER	SHUT
BARS	DEMISE	HOLD	STAY
BLOCK	DESIST	IMPEDE	STILL
BOLT	DESTINATION	INTERCEPT	STOP
BRAKE	DISCONTINUE	KIBOSH	TERMINATE
BREAK	ENDS	LAST	WHOA
CATCH	FINALE	LEAVE	WIND UP
CEASE	FINISH	LIMIT	WITHDRAWAL
CLOSE	GOAL	LULL	
COMPLETE	HALT	QUIT	

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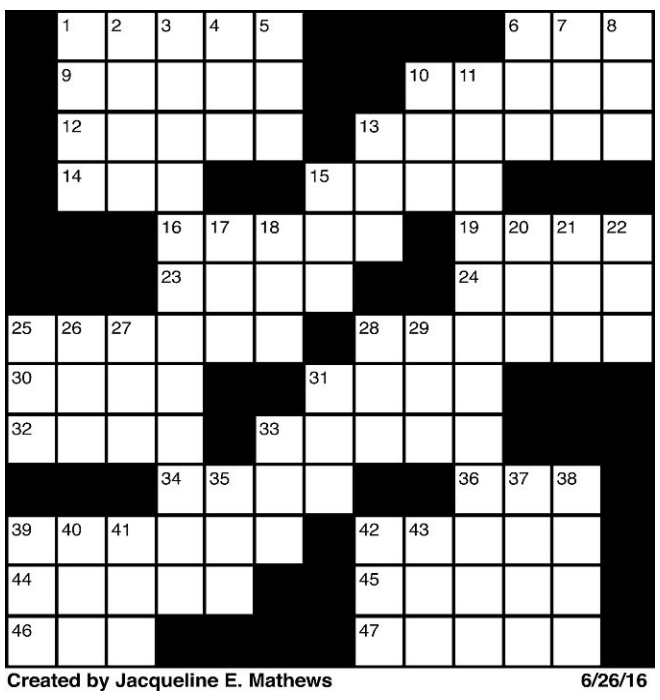
TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 6/26/16

ACROSS
1 "__ Is Enough"
6 Actress Thurman
9 Concur
10 Villains
12 Della __ of "Touched by an Angel"
13 Actress Peet
14 Pig's home
15 "__ Trek: Voyager"
16 White House resident
19 Orange peel
23 "How to Get __ with Murder"
24 Actor Morales
25 "The Green __"
28 "__ Knows Best"
30 Length times width
31 Narrow cut
32 "America's __ Top Model"
33 "The Perfect __"; George Clooney movie
34 Frequent visitor at Mayberry's jail
36 Jed Clampett's discovery
39 Role on "Seinfeld"
42 "The Dinah __ Show"
44 Tripoli's nation
45 __ Hotchner; role on "Criminal Minds"
46 Name for a Stooge
47 Singer Campbell and others

DOWN
1 Dumbo's "wings"
2 "Boy, Did __ a Wrong Number!"; Bob Hope movie
3 Series for Sandra Oh
4 "__ Just Not That Into You"; Jennifer Aniston film
5 Peg for Tiger
6 "Ode on a Grecian __"
7 "Chicago __"
8 "Not __ Stranger"; Frank Sinatra movie
10 Tumor suffix
11 Role on "Blue Bloods"
13 "One Day __ Time"
15 Bashful
17 Sense of wonder
18 Took a load off
20 Suffix for child or fool
21 Scottish denial
22 Hitchcock or Scorsese: abbr.
25 __ Solo; role in "Star Wars" movies
26 Unrefined mineral
27 Reed or Harrison
28 Role on "Alice"
29 "The Fresh Prince of Bel-__"
31 Easy and Wall: abbr.
33 Title for Sean Connery
35 __ Leoni
37 "__ Man"; film for Robert Downey Jr.
38 Goodman and Cariou
39 J's followers
40 "Blame It on __"; Michael Caine movie
41 Actor Vigoda
42 Hang limply
43 Holbrook or Linden

7/3/16

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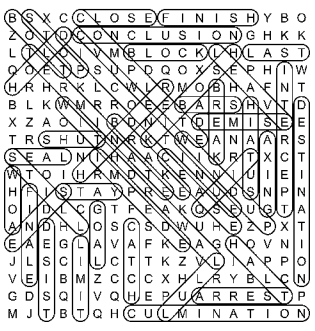
stop it



R I G H T E O U S

JUMBLE

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUATI

SIMNU

FEERUG

RUYHOL

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

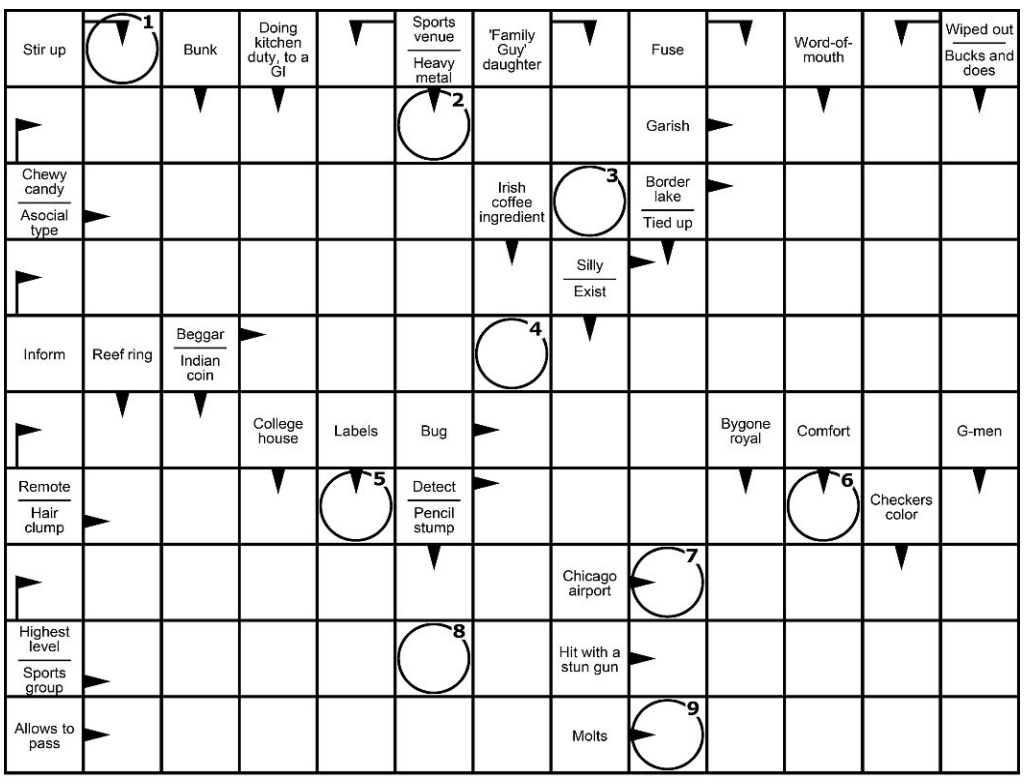
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Jumbles: AUDIT MINUS REFUGE HOURLY
Answer: He worked as a tailor until he decided the job wasn't — SUITED FOR HIM

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.



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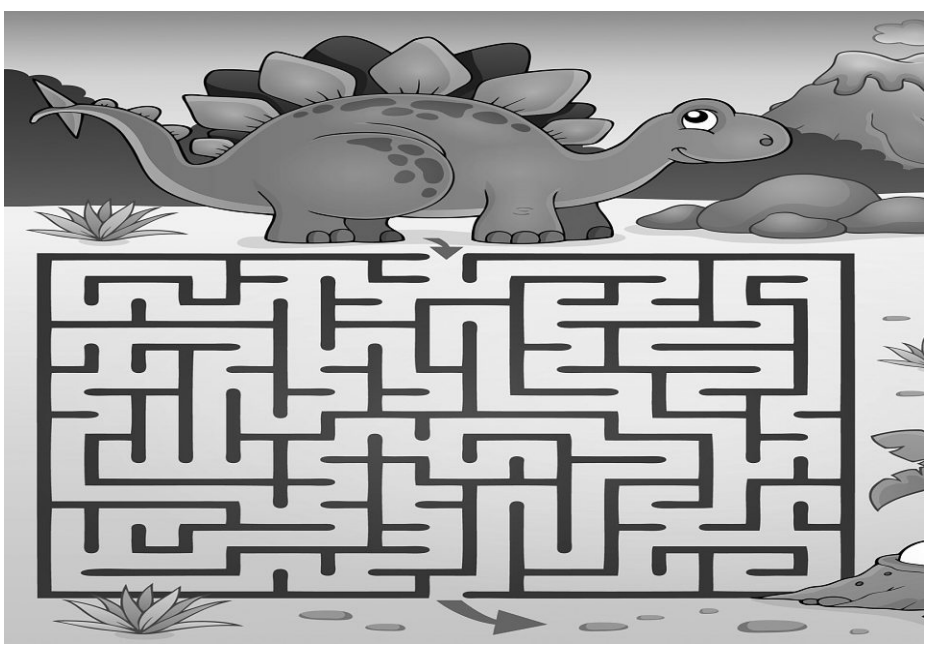
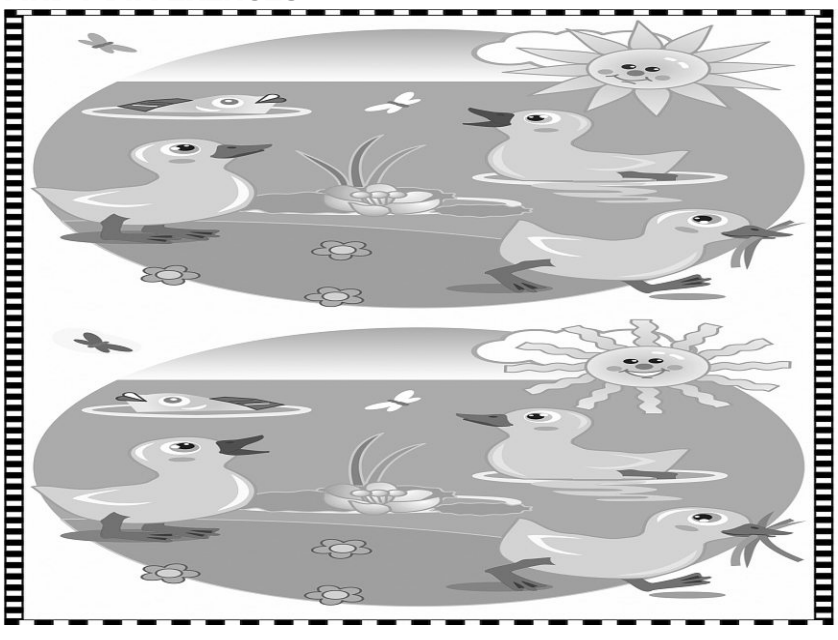
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

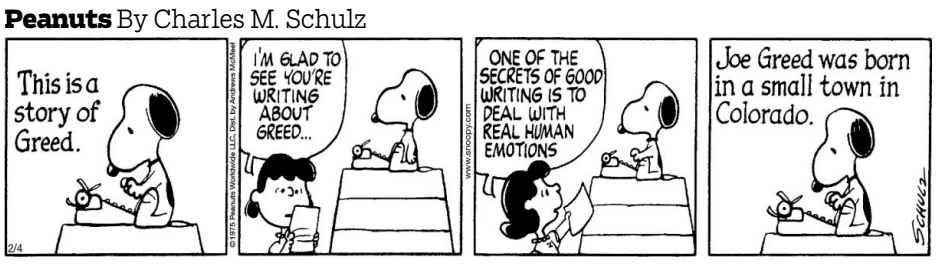
KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



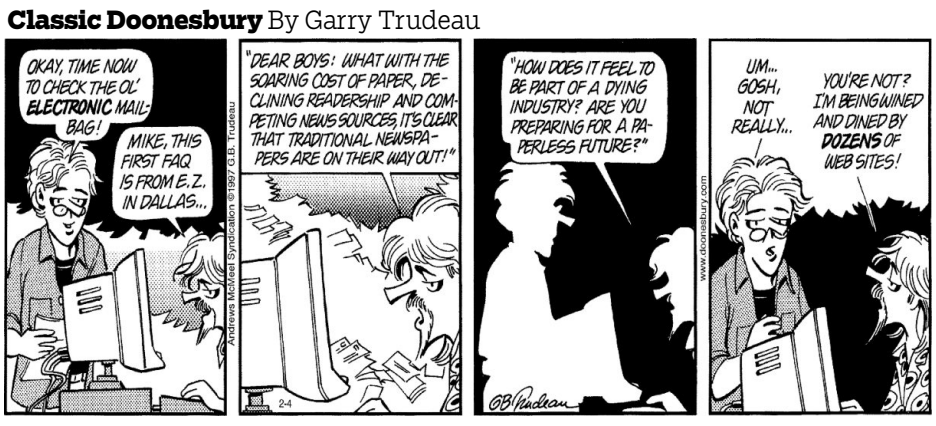
FIND 7 DIFFERENCES



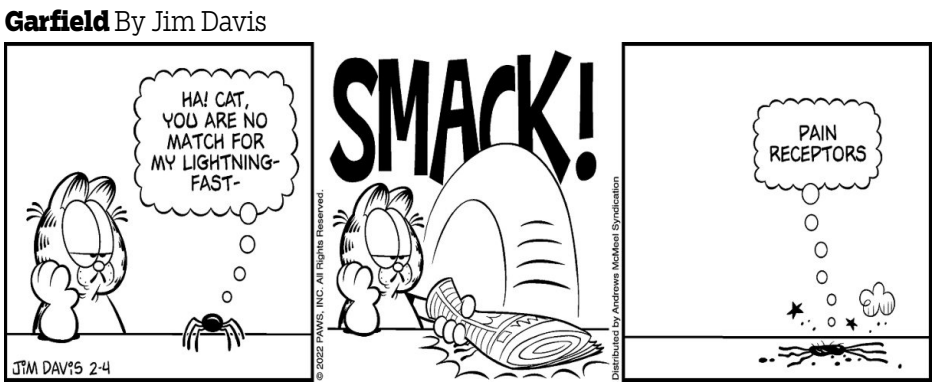
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



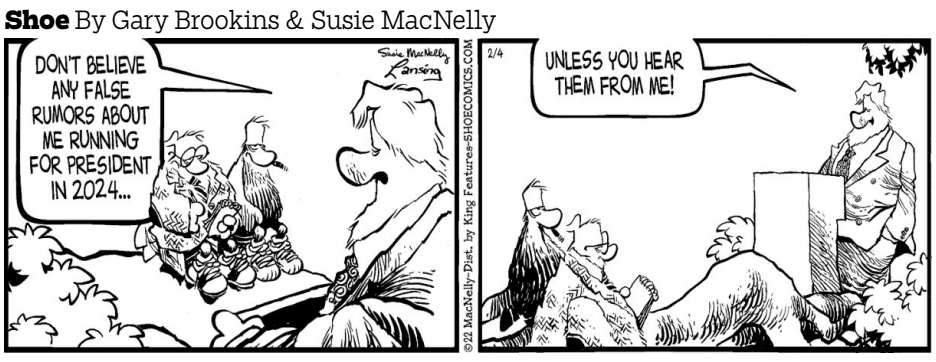
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis

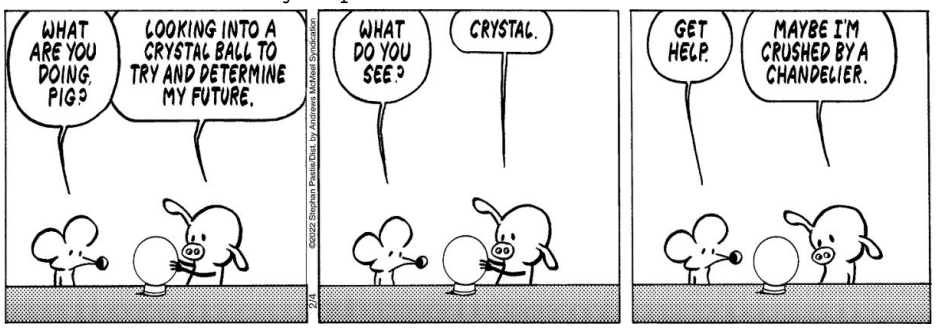


Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly

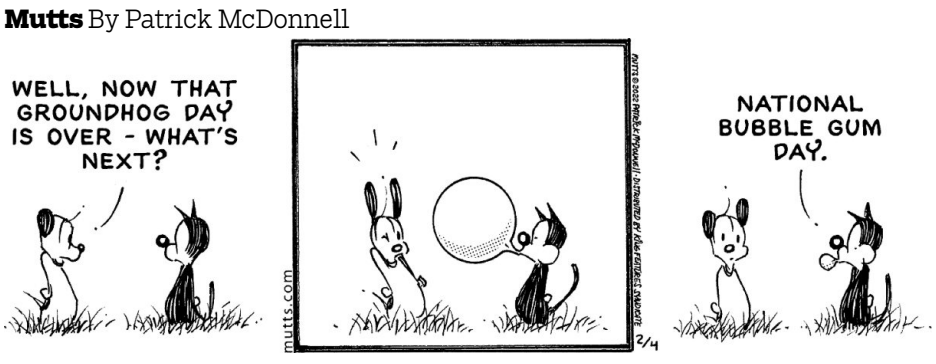


Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker

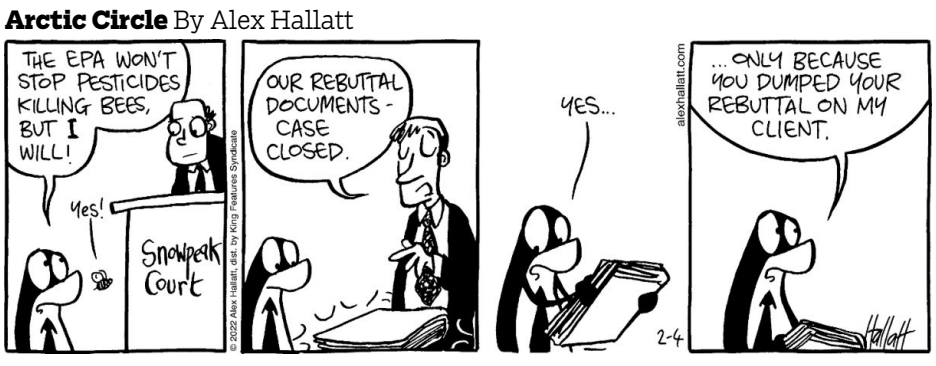
Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell

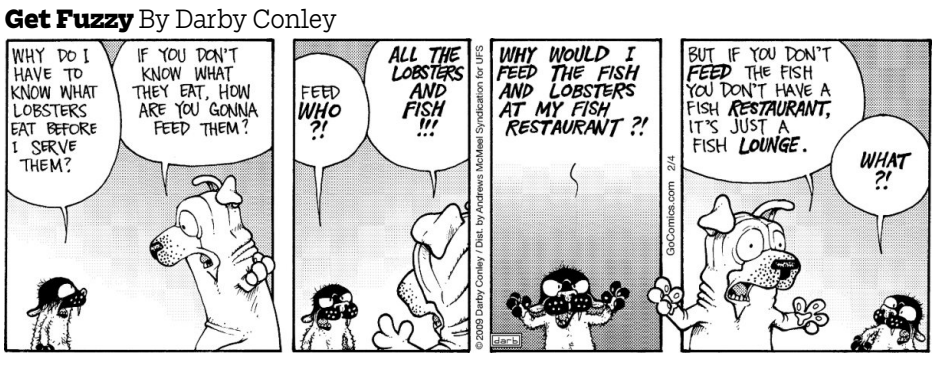


Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



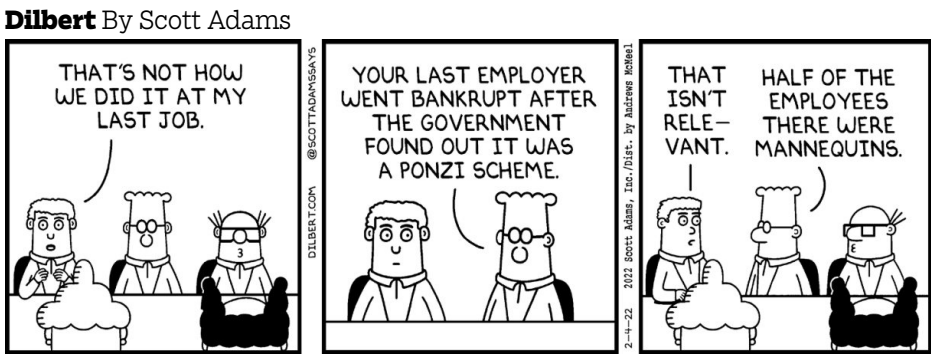
Jump Start By Robb Armstrong

Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley

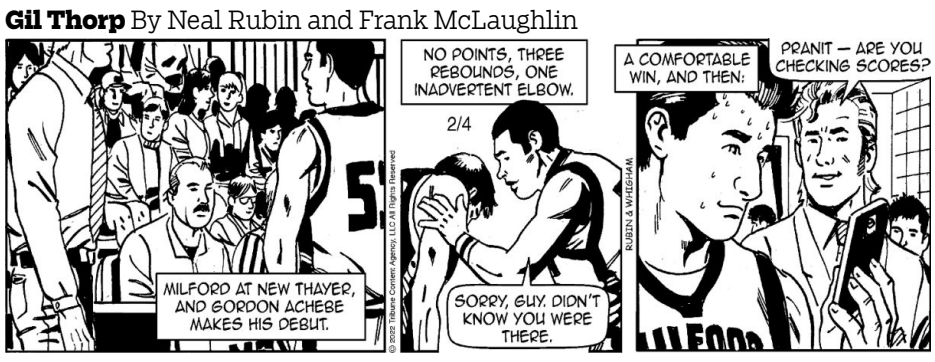


Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall

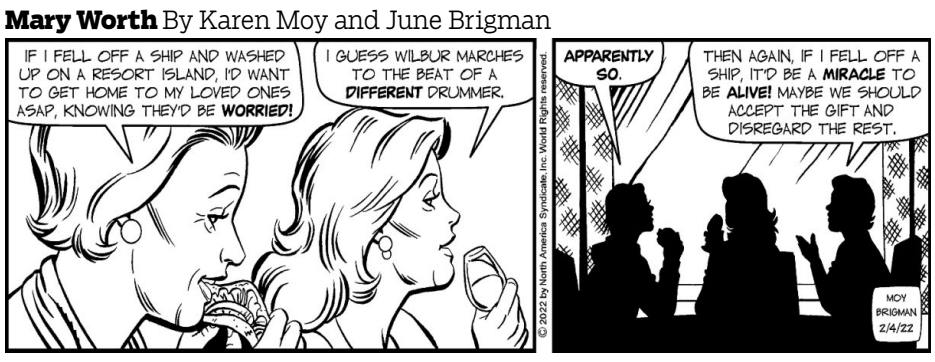
Dilbert By Scott Adams



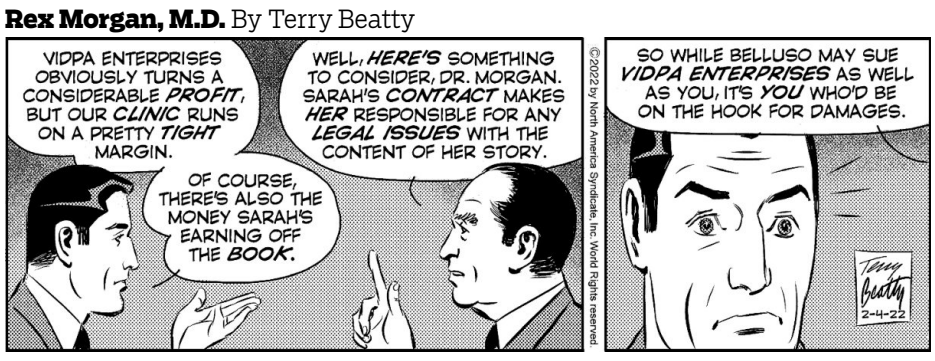
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



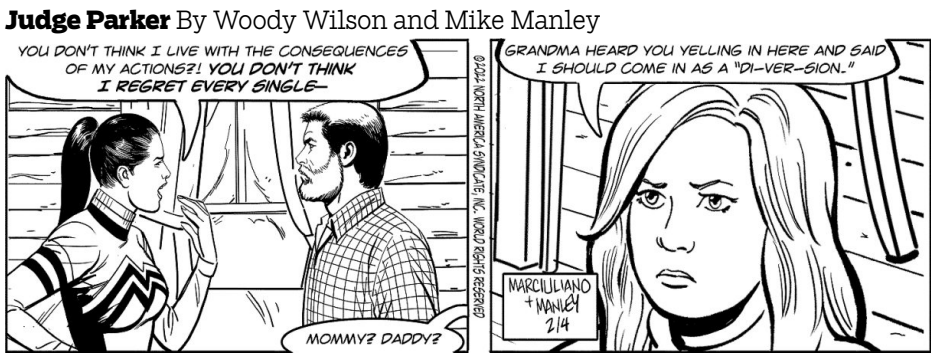
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



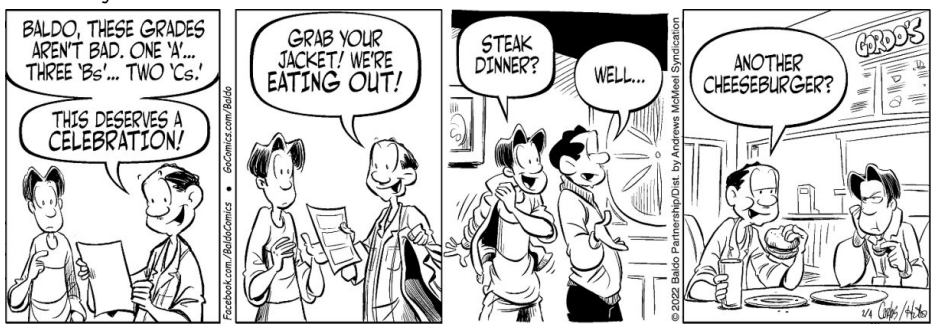
Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



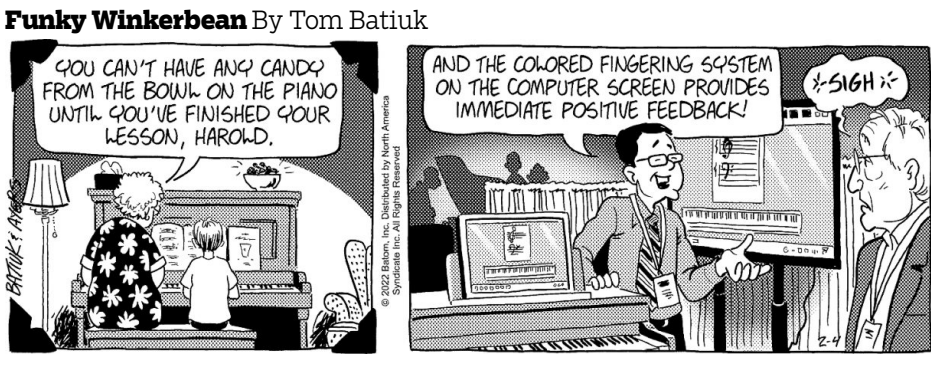
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



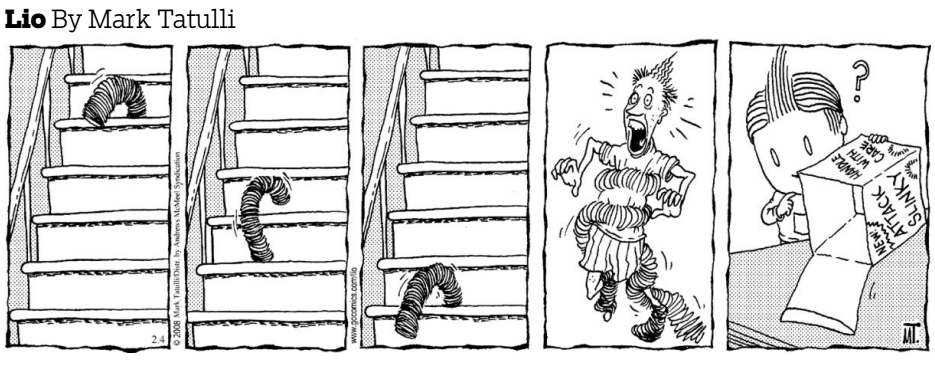
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



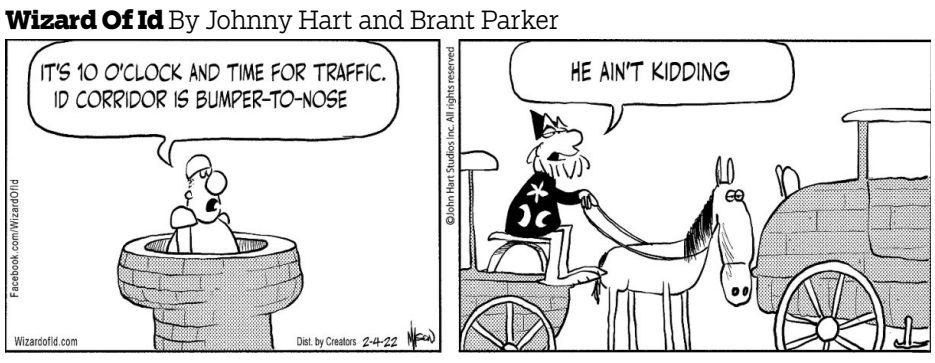
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



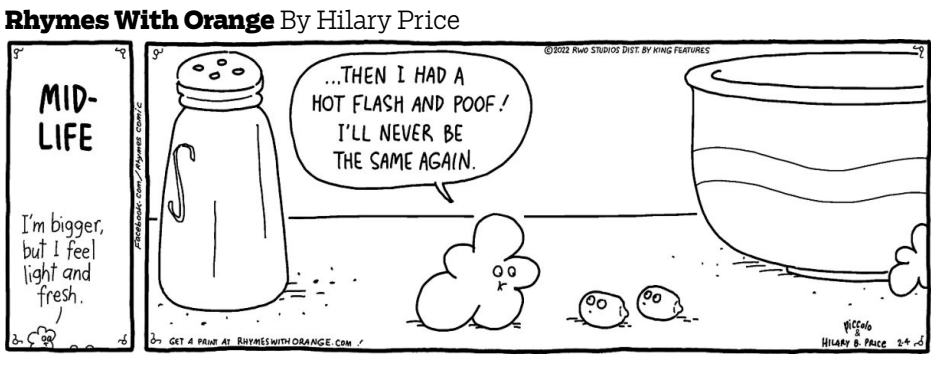
Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



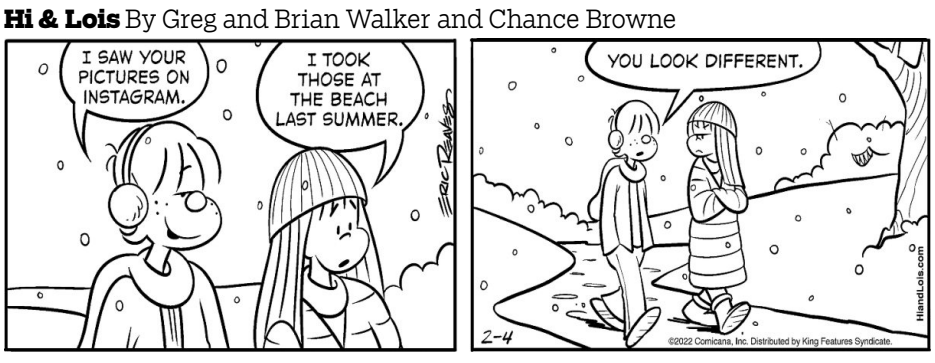
Monty By Jim Meddick

For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

B.C. By Hart

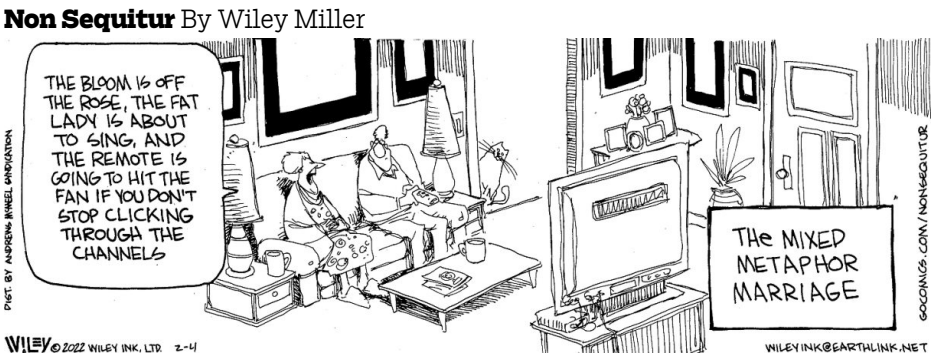
Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker

Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne

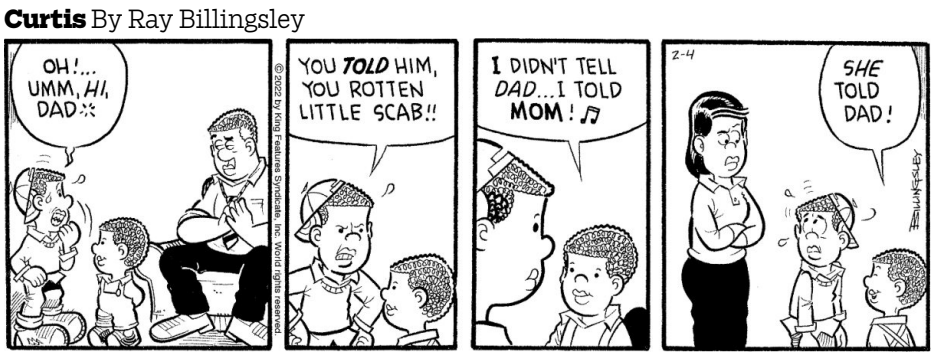


Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne

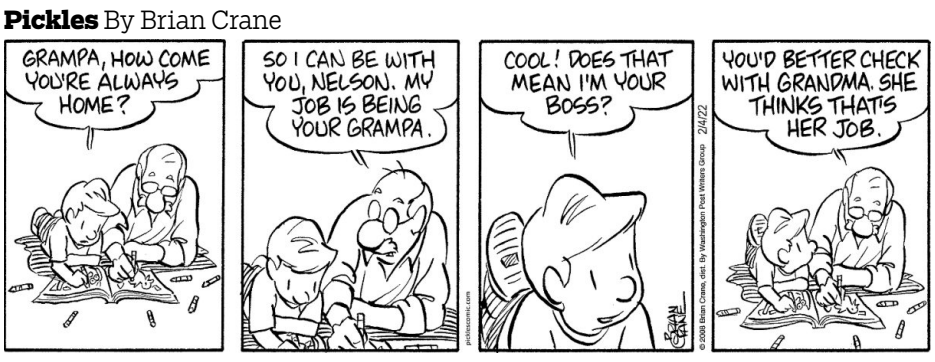
Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



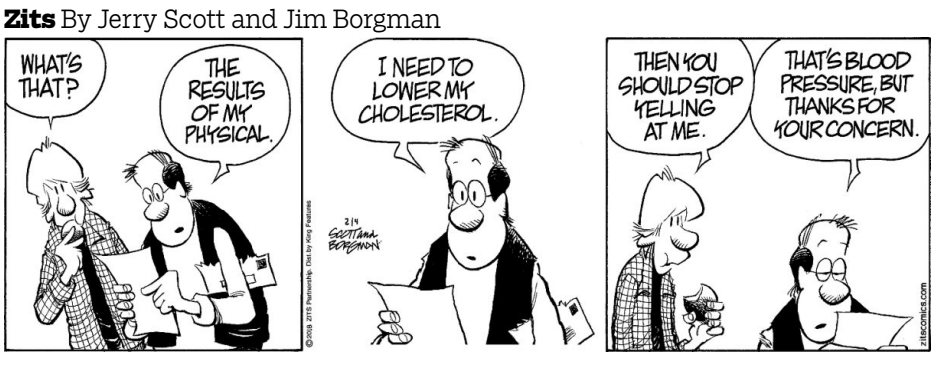
Curtis By Ray Billingsley



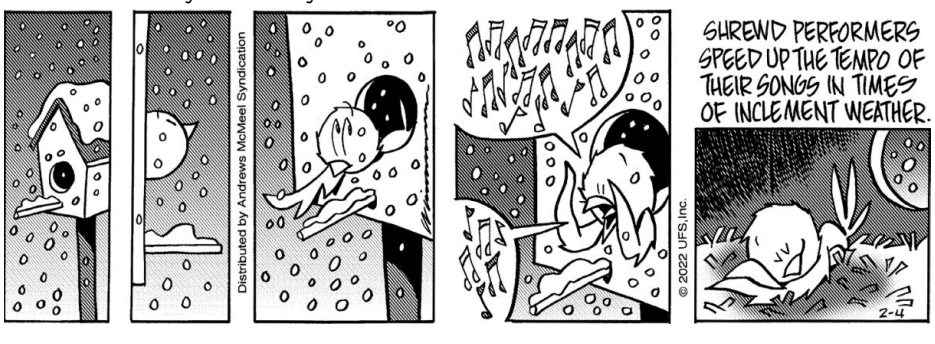
Pickles By Brian Crane



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters

CROSSWORD

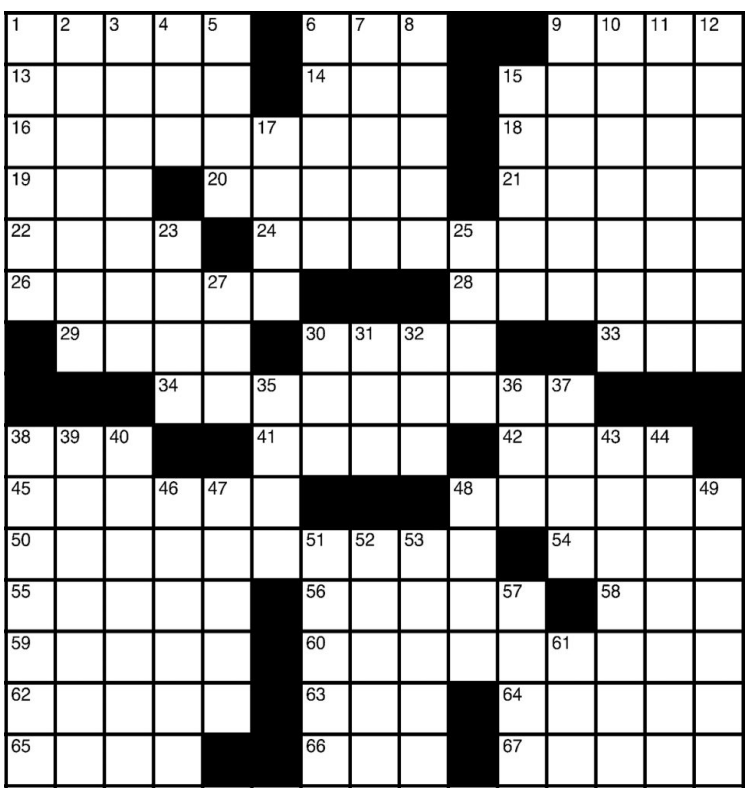
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 Colorful chatterbox
6 Needing a refill
9 Either of two "Monday, Monday" singers
13 Ohno in the Olympics
14 Mahershala of "House of Cards"
15 '50s vaccine pioneer
16 Appreciation for Jay-Z's music?
18 Big name in Civil War fiction
19 A play may have just one
20 Terminates
21 Sanctioned by Islamic law
22 Kitchen address
24 Compilation of angry blog posts?
26 Fizz up
28 Rights wrongs
29 Much of E. Europe, once
30 Squeal
33 Feb. NC hours
34 Jamaican drink garnish?
38 With 15-Down, brow-wiping comment
41 Crew pair
42 Disney bigwig
45 Exchange
48 Blue hues
50 Deckhand unable to raise the sails?
54 Moderate
55 Bug
56 One following a point
58 Penn in NYC, e.g.
59 Online cash-back deal
60 "In Rainbows" rockers, and a hint to what changes four puzzle answers
62 Cubist Fernand
63 Lager alternative
64 Tee choice
65 March time
66 Aleppo's home: Abbr.
67 Fourth circle of hell inhabitant, in Dante

Down

1 Half a percussion pair
2 Boeing 3-Down
3 See 2-Down
4 Lofty peak
5 Scarf (down)
6 Michelle's White House predecessor
7 Worker with Lane and Kent
8 "Let Them All Talk" actress Dianne
9 Island thanks
10 Sea otter prey
11 They're not real
12 Handwriting __
15 See 38-Across
17 Concession ending
23 Klinger on "M*A*S*H"
25 Room access
27 Volunteer State sch.
30 Placeholder abbr.
31 Goof
32 Survivalist Stroud
35 Jay of "Last Comic Standing"
36 Lemon on "30 Rock"
37 Feverish feeling
38 Haifa native
39 Hotel option
40 Turnpike reading
43 They remove bad marks
44 Bring back to Broadway
46 U.S. IOUs
47 More evasive
48 Wine region near Cuneo
49 One might get a return
51 Razor choices
52 Devious
53 Ready for the operation
57 Ian of "The Hobbit"
61 "Bali __"



By Pam Amick Klawitter — Tribune Content Agency 2/4/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

Bidding quiz

You have the following hand, both sides vulnerable:

[S] KQ1083 [H] KQ95 [D] K4 [C] A2

1. Partner bids One Diamond, and you respond Two Spades. Partner bids Three Diamonds, and you bid Three Hearts. Partner says Four Diamonds. What would you bid now?

2. Your right-hand opponent bids One Diamond, which you double. Your partner responds One Heart. What would you bid now?

3. After two passes, your right-hand opponent opens One Club, which you double. Your partner responds Two Hearts. What would you bid now?

4. You open One Spade, and partner bids Two Notrump (13-15 points, balanced distribution). You bid Three Hearts, and partner bids Three Notrump. What would you bid now?

* * *

1. Four Notrump. Partner obviously likes diamonds and probably has seven of them headed by the A-Q or A-Q-J. How many tricks your side can make depends on how many aces he has.

It is therefore best to bid four notrump, which in this sequence is Blackwood even though no suit has been directly agreed upon as trump. If partner responds five spades (three aces), you plan to bid seven notrump (or seven diamonds); if he responds five hearts (two aces), you'll bid six diamonds; and if he responds five diamonds (one ace), you'll pass.

2. Three Hearts. You can't bid four hearts, since partner might have a worthless hand, but your hand is too strong for a raise to only two hearts. Three hearts, inviting partner to carry on to a game with a smattering of values, is just about right.

3. Three Clubs. When this hand appeared in The Bridge World magazine, a panel of 45 experts voted as follows: 22 for three clubs; 16 for four hearts; five for four notrump; two for two spades.

Those favoring three clubs (a cue-bid) or four notrump were obviously more slam-minded than those who leaped to four hearts, basically a closeout bid. It does seem that if partner has two aces, a slam is probable, and for that reason this writer favors three clubs or four notrump, in that order.

4. Four Notrump. Twelve tricks might be laydown if partner has the right values, even though the combined point count cannot be 33. Four notrump is invitational in this sequence, and partner does not have to respond. It asks partner to bid six notrump if he has a maximum for his initial two-notrump bid, and has nothing to do with Blackwood.

Tomorrow: An exploratory procedure.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

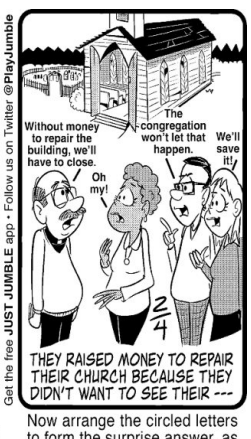
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

THHCI

TAESU

MRRPEI

PRISLA



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLOSS CRAZY INTAKE OCTANE
Answer: The bird had trouble seeing the window and would try to remember to — STAY CLEAR OF IT

TODAY'S SUDOKU

3	4						6	
			8		1			
		5		9		7		
4	9				3		2	
					2			
6	3		9				4	8
				5		4		
			1		9			
	1						5	7

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

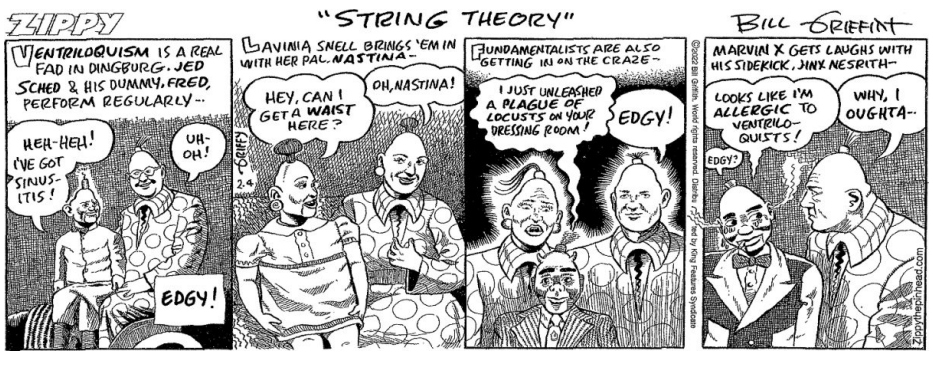
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

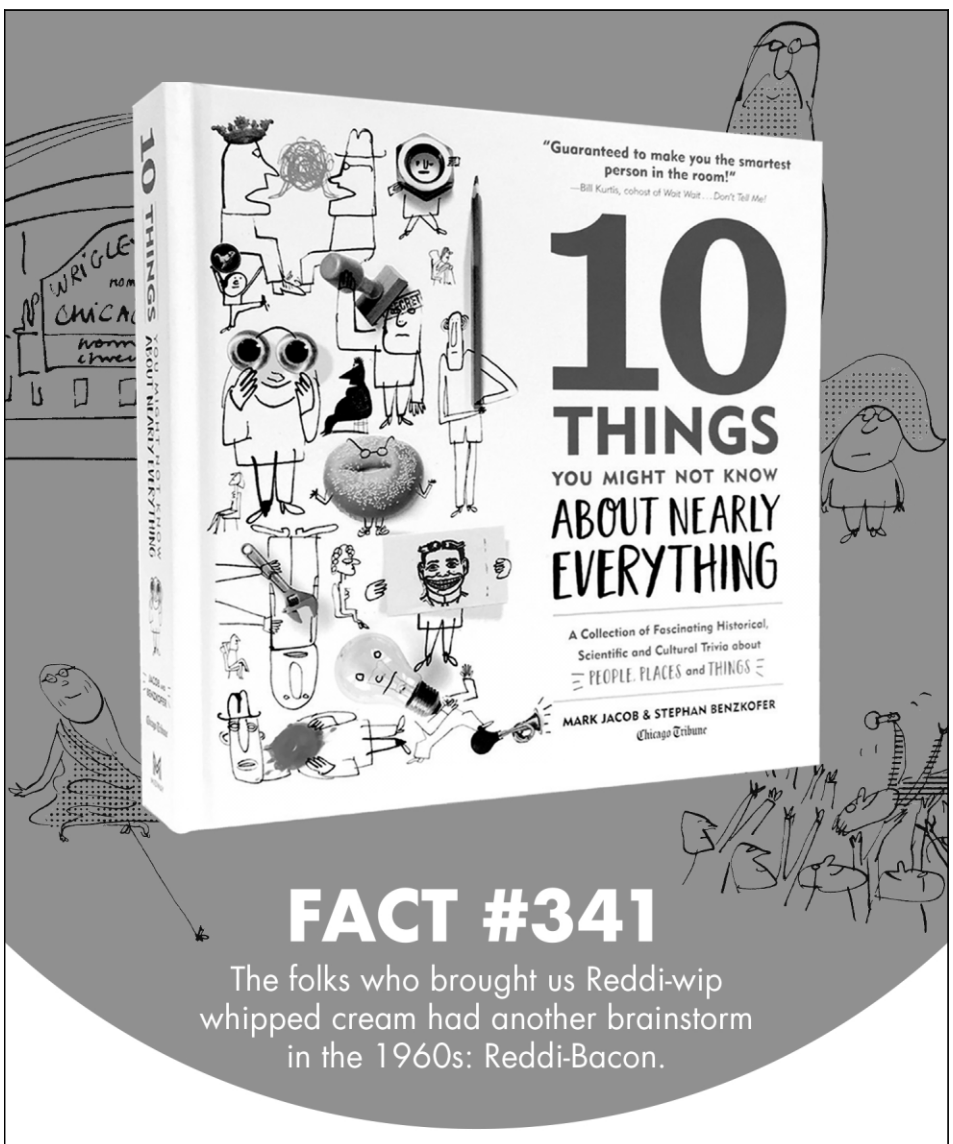
5	8	2	7	9	4	6	1	3
4	9	1	3	8	6	2	5	7
3	6	7	1	2	5	4	8	9
6	1	5	4	7	2	3	9	8
8	2	4	5	3	9	7	6	1
7	3	9	6	1	8	5	4	2
1	5	8	2	6	7	9	3	4
2	4	3	9	5	1	8	7	6
9	7	6	8	4	3	1	2	5

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

J	A	W	S		O	R	A	L		R	A	G	E	D
A	L	O	E		P	E	D	I		A	D	O	R	E
R	E	N	E	G	E	D	O	N		V	E	G	A	N
			M	I	N	D	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S
A	S	N	E	A	T		E	S	P	O		T	E	E
M	T	A		N	A	G			A	L	B			
C	O	U	N	T	B	L	E	S	S	I	N	G	S	
S	I	R	E				E	M	O			A	R	I	E
	C	U	R	B	E	N	T	H	U	S	I	A	S	M
			F	A	X			O	P	A		N	A	M
T	O	M		I	P	A	S		S	U	B	T	L	Y
S	W	A	L	L	O	W	P	R	I	D	E			
A	L	T	O	S		G	R	I	D	I	R	O	N	S
R	E	T	R	O		E	A	S	E		Y	O	U	R
S	T	E	E	N		E	Y	E	S		L	O	S	S

ZIPPY "STRING THEORY" BILL GRIFFITH





FACT #341

The folks who brought us Reddi-wip whipped cream had another brainstorm in the 1960s: Reddi-Bacon.

10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything contains a plethora of tidbits and trivia that will appeal to everyone, from history buffs to sports fans to foodies. From lighthearted topics such as misspellings and extreme eating, to serious subjects such as WWII and prison, this book leaves readers brighter and wittier than ever before.

FACT #84: A cardigan worn by a man is sometimes called a mandigan.

FACT #178 : Genuphobia is the fear of knees.

FACT #238: Actress Marilyn Monroe colored her hair using a shade of blond called dirty pillow slip.

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Hartford Courant
SPORTS
COURANT.COM / SPORTS

UConn's Christyn Williams (13) celebrates with Nika Muhl after hitting a three-pointer against Creighton during the second half Wednesday in Omaha, Neb. The Huskies won 76-56. **REBECCA S. GRATZ/AP**

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Striking a balance

With Auriemma back, Huskies look to continue even effort against Butler

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

Aside from the shaky start, the No. 10 UConn women's basketball team's 76-56 win over Creighton on Wednesday showcased just how good the Huskies can be when they're firing on all cylinders. The defense disrupted a typically lethal Creighton offense, they found a groove offensively and cut down the self-inflicted errors.

And maybe most importantly for this team long-term, everyone who played contributed toward the victory.

The seniors stepped up big on both ends. Olivia Nelson-Ododa had one of her best performances of the season with 17 points, 14 rebounds and six assists. Christyn Williams chipped in 17 points, three assists, two rebounds and two steals, and Evina Westbrook 10 points, five rebounds and five assists off the bench.

In addition, freshman Caroline Ducharme had a big third quarter, her jumper at the 8:07 mark giving UConn its first lead of the game. Sophomore Nika Mühl made timely shots, plus five assists with zero turnovers. Freshman Azzi Fudd had a quiet first three quarters, but her 10 points in the fourth quarter (a team high) helped UConn seal the win. Even sophomore Aaliyah Edwards' five rebounds helped the Huskies dominate the Bluejays on the glass.

"Everybody did something to help, and I think that's a sign of really good team," Dailey said.

It's the sort of balance the

Turn to UConn, Page 4

Up next

Butler at UConn
7 p.m., SNY

■ **Inside:** Auriemma to return to bench after missing win over Creighton. **Page 4**

BILL FITCH 1932-2022

Former Celtics coach dies at age 89

By Adam Himmelsbach
Boston Globe

BOSTON — On May 1, 1981, the Celtics were facing elimination in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals in Philadelphia. Coach Bill Fitch wasn't one for rah-rah motivation, but before this game against the 76ers, he did what he could.

"He gave one of the best non-speeches that I've ever heard," forward Cedric Maxwell said by phone Thursday. "He said 'Guys, you've got nothing to lose. Nobody believes you're going to win this game.' And it took all the pressure off us. We played like a championship team and became a championship team.

Fitch

"Bill was a complicated, Vince Lombardi-type guy who didn't give a damn about the opposition and always made us believe. He was Kevin Garnett before Kevin Garnett. Kevin always said it was us against them, and with Bill Fitch it was us against them. And it was us against 19,000 people who were in the Philadelphia Spectrum."

The Celtics went on to win that game and the series, as well as the NBA title, cementing Fitch's place in Celtics lore. Fitch, who went 242-86 over his four seasons in Boston and was enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2019, died Wednesday. He was 89.

"I think for the players on the '81 team, and for all of us that had been coached by Bill Fitch, there was a carryover from that whole group, and I think it carried over to our 1984 and 1986 championships [under K.C. Jones]," former Celtics guard and president of basketball operations Danny Ainge said by phone Thursday.

Ainge joined the Celtics as a rookie midway through the 1981-82 season after spending the start of that year playing baseball with the Toronto Blue Jays. He said Fitch was hard on him, but he began to realize it was just tough love. Ainge said that when he challenged

Turn to Fitch, Page 2

WINTER OLYMPICS

The United States' Olivia Giaccio competes in the women's moguls qualifying at Genting Snow Park on Thursday in Zhangjiakou, China. **LEE JIN-MAN/AP**

A high-flying pair

Connecticut's Giaccio, Soar advance to women's moguls finals at Beijing Games

By Pat Graham
Associated Press

ZHANGJIAKOU, China — Before her qualifying round, moguls skier Jaelin Kauf put on a pair of necklaces — one silver, the other gold — custom-made by her mom.

Then, she went out and put herself in the mix for more hardware this weekend.

The 25-year-old American got a great start on her Olympic journey, speeding through the bumps to finish third in a qualifying round Thursday, the night before the cauldron is lit in Beijing to mark the official start of these Olympics. She'll be back at it Sunday with the medals on the line.

"I'm stoked I put a solid top-to-bottom (run) down to start off the Olympics," said Kauf, who also painted her nails red with gold sparkles for the occasion.

The United States' Hannah Soar competes in the women's moguls qualifying Thursday in Zhangjiakou, China. **GREGORY BULL/AP**

Jakara Anthony of Australia led the way in qualifying, followed by defending Olympic champion Perrine Laffont of France. Kauf's American teammates, Redding's Olivia Giaccio and Somers' Hannah Soar, each finished in the top 10 to guarantee their spots in the final. Nobody was completely eliminated. The 11th through 30th finishers get another qualifying round Sunday.

Next up, an interesting decision: attend the opening ceremony Friday or stay home and get some rest?

"I've had a little bit of experience competing before the opening ceremony and I've never really marched in an opening ceremony," said Britteny Cox, an Aussie at her fourth Olympics who qualified for the final. "So, for me, it's kind of business as usual."

The only American who didn't

Turn to Moguls, Page 4

Inside

■ Predicting who will win the gold in some of the top events of the Winter Olympics. **Page 5**

■ As Games open, world shifts focus to good, bad, unknown of host China. **Page 5**

Did you know?

At 30° F, 1 pound of rock salt will melt about 46 pounds of ice.
At 20° F, 1 pound of salt will only melt about 9 pounds of ice.
And at +1° F, 1 pound of salt will only melt about 4 pounds of ice.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: at Villanova, Saturday, noon; Marquette (XL), Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.; at Xavier, Feb. 11, 7 p.m.
UConn WBB: Butler (Gampel), Friday, 7 p.m.; Tennessee (XL), Sunday, noon; Villanova (XL), Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Celtics: at Pistons, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Magic, Sunday, 6 p.m.; at Nets, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Knicks: at Lakers, Saturday, 8:30 p.m.; at Jazz, Monday, 9 p.m.; at Nuggets, Tuesday, 9 p.m.
Nets: at Jazz, Friday, 9 p.m.; at Nuggets, Sunday, 3:30 p.m.; Celtics, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: Providence, Friday, 7 p.m.; at New Hampshire, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; at Merrimack, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Bruins: Penguins, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Hurricanes, Feb. 10, 7 p.m.; at Senators, Feb. 12, 12:30 p.m.
Rangers: Bruins, Feb. 15, 7 p.m.; Red Wings, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.; at Senators, Feb. 20, 5 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Springfield, Friday, 7 p.m.; Lehigh Valley, Saturday, 5 p.m.; Springfield, Feb. 11, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASKETBALL
6 p.m.: St. Bonaventure at Richmond. (Live) ESPN2
6:30 p.m.: Miami (Ohio) at Akron. (Live) CBSSN
7 p.m.: Women's College: Butler at UConn. (Live), SNY
7 p.m.: Celtics at Pistons. (Live), NBCSB
7 p.m.: Quinnipiac at Saint Peter's. (Live) ESPNU
7 p.m.: Creighton at Seton Hall. (Live) FS1
7:30 p.m.: Hawks at Raptors. (Live) NBA
8 p.m.: Women's College: Texas at Baylor. (Live) ESPN2
9 p.m.: Nets at Jazz. (Live), YES
9 p.m.: Toledo at Ball State. (Live) ESPNU
9 p.m.: San Diego State at Colorado State. (Live) FS1
10 p.m.: 76ers at Mavericks. (Live) ESPN
11 p.m.: Nevada at Fresno State. (Live) FS1
GOLF
9:30 a.m.: DP World Tour Golf Ras Al Khaimah Championship, Second Round. (Same-day Tape) GOLF
3 p.m.: AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Second Round. (Live) GOLF
3:30 a.m.: Asian Tour Golf PIF Saudi International, Third Round. (Live) GOLF
HOCKEY
7 p.m.: College: Providence at UConn. (Live), NESNPlus
7:30 p.m.: NHL All-Star Skills Competition (Live) ESPN
9 p.m.: St. Cloud State at Denver. (Live) CBSSN
OLYMPICS
6:30 a.m.: Opening Ceremony. (Live) NBC, SPRTNET
4 p.m.: Figure Skating. (Same-day Tape) USA
5:15 p.m.: Figure Skating. (Same-day Tape) USA
6:30 p.m.: Figure Skating. (Same-day Tape) USA
8 p.m.: Opening Ceremony. (Same-day Tape) NBC
8 p.m.: Mixed Doubles Curling - Switzerland vs Sweden. (Live) USA
10 p.m.: Snowboarding. (Live) USA
11:50 p.m.: Women's Hockey - Canada vs Finland. (Live) USA
1 a.m. Sat.: Beijing 2022 Tonight. (Live) SPRTNET
1:30 a.m. Sat.: Ski Jumping. (Live) USA
2 a.m. Sat.: Beijing 2022 Tonight. (Live) SPRTNET
2:45 a.m. Sat.: Cross Country Skiing. (Live) USA
3:35 a.m. Sat.: Speed Skating. (Live) USA
5 a.m. Sat.: Freestyle Skiing. (Live) USA
5:30 a.m. Sat.: Beijing 2022 Tonight. (Live) SPRTNET
SOCCER
3 p.m.: FA Cup Soccer Manchester United vs Middlesbrough. (Live) SPRTNET
WRESTLING
7 p.m.: Duke at Virginia Tech. (Live) ACC

The Yankees' Derek Jeter and Joe Girardi at Yankee Stadium. **COREY SIPKIN/NEW YORK DAILY NEWS**

YANKEES COMMENTARY

Getting carried away

Jeter comes in way too high on ESPN's ranking of all-time Top 100 MLB players

By Matthew Roberson
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — The World Wide Leader got swept up in Yankee mystique yet again.

ESPN has been unveiling its list of the Top 100 MLB players of all time this week. Babe Ruth came in at the top spot, with Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Ty Cobb and Ted Williams rounding out the top five.

While not particularly egregious from a historical standpoint — the collective baseball intelligentsia decided long ago that Ruth was the greatest and could never be bothered to change their mind — leaving Barry Bonds out of the top five is laughable. Bonds had to settle for the eighth spot.

The rankings note that they are based on "career WAR, Hall of Fame status, peak performance and overall contributions to the game" which is code for, "If you maybe did steroids we hate you." This explains the Bonds disdain.

The point is, professional baseball players have never been choir boys. ESPN's rankings still clearly prioritized a nice guy image and the sanctity of playing the game the right way over actual on-field production. This is how you get Derek Jeter (28th) ahead of Pete Rose (34), the man with the most hits in league history. Overrating Jeter is nothing new, especially with championship obsession taking precedence over everything else. But this list has him 37 spots ahead of Cal Ripken Jr., who destroys him in the WAR department and had similarly monumental contributions to the game as it recovered from the 1994 strike.

Jeter absolutely deserves a spot in the Top 100, but putting him ahead of players like Albert Pujols (who was 46% more productive at the plate than Jeter during the 14 years they were both active), Ichiro Suzuki (an infinitely better defender whose 10-year peak outpaced Jeter by WAR) and Tony Gwynn (a better hitter by nearly every single rate stat) is ludicrous. The Yankee shortstop has the benefit of longevity on his side for things like career hits, the benefit of team success for World Series trophies and the benefit of the New York media market for attention.

ESPN did get one thing right. Alex Rodriguez was a better player than Jeter. A-Rod and his 26th overall ranking nudge Jeter down the list just like the Yankees should have nudged Jeter to third base when they traded for the notorious baseball villain. A-Rod's various drug scandals undoubtedly hurt him in these rankings, but for many baseball fans, he and Bonds were the most talented players they've ever seen. Naming them the 26th and eighth best players in league history, respectively, is yet another example of the old baseball media guard clutching their pearls at any semblance of controversy, or even worse, the loaded "disrespecting the game" notion.

Altogether, 17 players who wore the Yankee uniform ended up on the list. Along with Ruth, Jeter, A-Rod and Ichiro, Phil Niekro (99th), Ivan Rodriguez (90th), Whitey Ford (60th), Dave Winfield (56th), Reggie Jackson (55th), Wade Boggs (45th), Yogi Berra (39th), Mariano Rivera (31st), Rickey Henderson (23rd), Roger Clemens (17th), Joe DiMaggio (16th), Mickey Mantle (seventh) and Lou Gehrig (sixth) cracked the Top 100.

The Mets' representation was limited to Duke Snider (95th), Roberto Alomar (86th), Mike Piazza (81st), Max Scherzer (65th), Warren Spahn (47th), Nolan Ryan (42nd), Henderson, Tom Seaver (22nd) and Pedro Martinez (11th), with Piazza and Tom Terrific serving as the only ones who are really associated with the blue and orange.

Scherzer joined Bryce Harper (94th), Justin Verlander (72nd), Miguel Cabrera (59th), Clayton Kershaw (52nd), Pujols (30th) and Mike Trout (15th) as the only active players to receive the honor.

KNICKS ANALYSIS

Walker pointless for 2 games, but Fournier giving it his best shot

By Anthony Rieber
Newsday

NEW YORK — The Knicks' starting backcourt averaged 15 points in Wednesday's 120-108 loss to the Grizzlies at the Garden.

Not bad, right? The problem was the breakdown: Evan Fournier scored 30 points. Kemba Walker scored zero.

It was Walker's second straight scoreless game. He played 17:10 and took only four shots. When the Knicks tried to make a frantic fourth-quarter comeback, Walker was on the bench and Immanuel Quickley played the point.

Asked after the game if he was concerned about Walker, coach Tom Thibodeau said: "Not really. To me, it's like Kemba, he's a proven scorer in this league. Players are going to go through different things. When he's open, I want to see him shoot every single time. He can miss 10 in a row. I believe he's going to make 10 in a row. That's just the way the game is. Shoot your open shots. ... What he has been doing is throwing the ball ahead really well and I think that's helped us. If you're not shooting well, find something else, find a different thing that you can help us with, and usually he does."

He didn't on Wednesday as Thibodeau had to go with quicker guards against Memphis All-Star Ja Morant. Rookie Quentin Grimes had some good moments defending Morant, who scored 23 points but shot 9-for-27.

Fournier shot 11-for-18 (8-for-12 on three-pointers). He scored 10 in the fourth quarter as the Knicks were able to knock a 14-point deficit down to six before the Grizzlies finished it.

"He's in a good rhythm right now and I think that his teammates are doing a good job of searching him out, which I think is important," Thibodeau said. "If people are loaded up on the strong side to Julius [Randle], then that means the back side is open. If we're making plays for each other, we're making quick decisions, guys are going to get in a rhythm because there's going to be multiple touches on every possession for everyone. I like the way he's playing a lot. I think it creates space and opens up the floor for everyone. It's been good. We've got to keep them going."

Fitch

from Page 1

Fitch in front of the team midway through the 1982-83 season, he gained the coach's respect.

"And by the time the season was over, ironically, I might have been one of the guys that was most disappointed that he was going to leave, because I'd gotten along with him really well," Ainge said. "I thought our relationship was in a really good place."

Ainge and Maxwell described Fitch as an intense and even paranoid coach. When the Celtics held a practice or pregame shootaround on the road, Fitch would often send a staffer on a sweep of the building to make sure no one was spying. Once, he noticed a maintenance worker in the top level of the 76ers' arena, and he told the team's public relations director, Jeff Twiss, to go kick him out.

Whenever a cameraman was sent to the edges of Boston's huddle to get footage during timeouts, he was usually shooed away by Fitch, too.

Fitch was one of the first basketball coaches to embrace the film room and his players gave him the nickname, 'Captain Video.' A camcorder would be placed on a chair to record most Celtics practices, and the team studied game film, too. Today, those sessions are neatly and conveniently spliced into noteworthy segments. But that wasn't really an option then.

"So we'd literally sit there and re-watch an entire stinking game," Ainge said.

Maxwell averaged 19 points per game in 1978-79, his second NBA season, and was eager to build on that mark the following year after Fitch was hired and Larry Bird was drafted.

"And my first practice Bill pulled me to the side and said, 'You're a pretty smart guy. Who do you think is going to have to guard the toughest guy every night?' " Maxwell said. "I'm looking at him like, 'Really, what are you telling me this for?' But he made me believe that I could defend and I didn't come into this league thinking I could guard anybody or slow anybody down. I learned tendencies and technique and he always gave me a plan of attack. He made me better because of that."

Maxwell, who went on to become the MVP of the 1981 NBA Finals, said Fitch and Bird were a good pairing because they believed in each other. And when Bird did something wrong, Fitch tended to find a way to place the blame on either Maxwell or forward Kevin McHale.

Fitch, who started his NBA coaching career with the Cavaliers, went on to guide the Rockets, Nets and Clippers after he left Boston.

GIANTS

Chiefs assistant Kafka likely to be hired as next OC

By Tom Rock
Newsday

NEW YORK — The Giants may not have one of the league's top quarterbacks, but they are surrounding the one they do have with those who have helped some of the highest-tiered players at the position thrive.

The latest addition to that coaching conglomerate should be Mike Kafka, who has served as Patrick Mahomes' position coach with Kansas City since 2018 and in the last two seasons also served as the team's passing game coordinator. Kafka is expected to be named offensive coordinator for the Giants, a source confirmed to Newsday. NFL Network was first to report the anticipated hiring.

Kafka will join a staff that also includes Josh Allen's former offensive coordinator from Buffalo in new Giants head coach Brian Daboll as well as Shea Tierney, who was the assistant quarterbacks coach for the Bills but will be Jones' position coach with the Giants.

Last year, the Giants spent the offseason trying to surround Daniel Jones with playmakers. This year they want to surround him with player-makers.

It's all part of the Giants' determination to get as clear a picture of Jones as they can in this upcoming season before determining his future with them. The Giants are unlikely to use their fifth-year option on Jones, which would lock in him with a guaranteed salary of about $22 million for the 2023 season. They have until this May to make that determination, giving the new regime no time with Jones actually on the field before they have to make that call.

The more likely scenario is that Jones goes into the final year of his rookie deal in the 2022 season trying to prove he can be the franchise quarterback the Giants thought they were drafting. If he succeeds, the Giants would then franchise tag him for 2023 at about $30 million. If he fails, he won't be back and the Giants will, as co-owner John Mara said last week, move on to "Plan B" at the position.

Kafka was an NFL quarterback himself, bouncing around the league from 2010-15 and appearing in just four games with the Eagles in 2011. He threw two interceptions and no touchdowns, completing 11 of 16 career passes. After his playing days ended, though, the Northwestern product returned to his alma mater as a graduate assistant before taking a job as an offensive quality control coach for Kansas City in 2017.

PATRIOTS

'I love you all': Brady posts a Pats-heavy tribute video

Boston Globe

BOSTON — Tom Brady didn't leave out the Patriots from his latest social media post.

After the recently retired quarterback conspicuously skipped any mention of his longtime team in his initial retirement announcement on Tuesday, Brady has highlighted his New England ties in several posts since then.

The most recent example came on Thursday when Brady shared a video montage of his career achievements. It included footage from several of his Patriots Super Bowl wins.

In the caption, Brady wrote a lengthy message paying tribute to teammates and those who "stood with me through every high and low, win and loss, and the memories we created TOGETHER. Memories that won't ever fade."

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	31	20	.608	—
Brooklyn	29	22	.569	2
Toronto	26	23	.531	4
Boston	28	25	.528	4
New York	24	28	.462	7½

SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	32	20	.615	—
Charlotte	28	24	.538	4
Atlanta	24	26	.480	7
Washington	24	27	.471	7½
Orlando	12	41	.226	20½

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	32	18	.640	—
Milwaukee	32	21	.604	1½
Cleveland	31	21	.596	2
Indiana	19	34	.358	14½
Detroit	12	38	.240	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	36	18	.667	—
Dallas	29	23	.558	6
New Orleans	19	32	.373	15½
San Antonio	19	33	.365	16
Houston	15	36	.294	19½

NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	31	21	.596	—
Denver	28	23	.549	2½
Minnesota	26	25	.510	4½
Portland	21	31	.404	10
Oklahoma City	16	34	.320	14

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Phoenix	41	9	.820	—
Golden State	39	13	.750	3
L.A. Clippers	26	27	.491	16½
L.A. Lakers	25	27	.481	17
Sacramento	19	34	.358	23½

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Minnesota at Detroit, late
Chicago at Toronto, late
Phoenix at Atlanta, late
Miami at San Antonio, late
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, late
Sacramento at Golden State, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Boston at Detroit, 7p.m.
Chicago at Indiana, 7p.m.
Cleveland at Charlotte, 7p.m.
Atlanta at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
Houston at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
Brooklyn at Utah, 9p.m.
New Orleans at Denver, 9p.m.
Oklahoma City at Portland, 10p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 106, Philadelphia 103
Orlando 119, Indiana 118
Boston 113, Charlotte 107
Memphis 120, New York 108
Houston 115, Cleveland 104
Oklahoma City 120, Dallas 114 (OT)
Sacramento 112, Brooklyn 101
Utah 108, Denver 104
L.A. Lakers 99, Portland 94

ALL STAR GAME STARTERS

EAST CONFERENCE FRONTCOURT	AS
Kevin Durant: F, Brooklyn (captain)	12
Giannis Antetokounmpo: F, Milwaukee	6
Joel Ebiid: F/C, Philadelphia	5
EAST CONFERENCE BACKCOURT	
DeMar DeRozan: G/F, Chicago	5
Trae Young: G, Atlanta	2
WEST CONFERENCE FRONTCOURT	
LeBron James: F, L.A. Lakers (captain)	18
Nikola Jokic: F/C, Denver	4
Andrew Wiggins: F, Golden State	1st
WEST CONFERENCE BACKCOURT	
Stephen Curry: G, Golden State	8
Ja Morant: G, Memphis	1st

EAST CONFERENCE RESERVES
Jimmy Butler , F, Miami
Darius Garland, G, Cleveland 1st
James Harden, G, Brooklyn
Zach LaVine, G, Chicago
Khris Middleton, F, Milwaukee
Jayson Tatum, G/F, Boston
Fred VanVleet, G, Toronto

WEST CONFERENCE RESERVES
Devin Booker, G, Phoenix
Luka Doncic, G, Dallas
Rudy Gobert, C/F, Utah
Draymond Green, F, Golden State
Donovan Mitchell, G, Utah
Chris Paul, G, Phoenix
Karl-Anthony Towns, F,Minnesota
AS-All-Star Game selection

EAST CONFERENCE FRONTCOURT VOTING

PLAYER	PV	F	RK MD	SC
Durant (Brk)	207	(6.8m)	98	1
Anttkmpo (MIL)	183	(6,5m)	98	1.75
Embiidl (PHI)	158	(4.3m)	98	2.5
Tatum, (BOS)	33	(1.9m)	0	4.5
Allen (CLE)	36	(690k)	0	5.25
Butler (MIA)	23	(1.8m)	0	5.5
Bridges (CHA)	46	(466k)	0	6.5
Adebayo (MIA)	24	(548k)	0	6.75
Siakam (TOR)	20	(625k)	0	7
Vucevic (CHI)	22	(376k)	0	9.25
Aldridge (Brk)	9	(409k)	0	10.25
Sabonis (IND)	17	(371k)	0	10.25
EAST BACKCOURT				
DeRozan (CHI)	155	(15.2m)	96	1
Young (ATL)	46	(2.7m)	54	2.25
LaVine (CHI)	73	2.5m))	18	2.75
Harden (Brk)	46	(2.4m)	17	3.75
Ball (CHA)	39	(1.2m)	5	86
VanVleet (TOR)	34	(818k)	6	6.5
Irving (Brk)	25	(1.1m)	0	7.25
Garland (CLE)	45	(526k)	2	7.25
Rose (NY)	9	(595k)	0	9.75
Brown (BOS)	11	(444k)	0	10
Beal(WAS)	25	(334k)	0	10.25
Herro (MIA)	11	(404k)	0	10.5

WEST CONFERENCE FRONTCOURT				
L. James (LAL)	171	(9.1m)	98	1
Jokic (DEN)	167	(5.3m)	98	1.75
Wiggins (GS)	46	(3.5m)	4	4.25
Dr.Green (GS)	58	(2.4m)	20	4.75
George (LAC)	36	(2.4m)	3	5.75
Gobert (Utah)	52	(767k)	65	6.25
Towns (MIN)	41	(1.6m)	5	7
A.Davis (LAL)	19	(2.7m)	0	8.25
Anthony (LAL)	20	(1.9m))	0	8.75
Ayton (PHX)	42	(613k)	0	8.75
Ingram (NO)	23	(515k)	1	9.75
Porzingis (DAL)	20	(390)	0	11.25
WEST BACKCOURT				
Curry (GS)	142	(7.6m	98	1
Morant (MEM)	116	(36m)	67	2
Doncic (DAL)	54	(2.5m)	0	4.25
Booker (PHX)	67	(1.2m)	13	4.25
CPaul (PHX)	30	(949k)	16	5.5
Thompson (GS)	9	(1.7m)	0	7
Mitchell (Utah)	17	(795k)	1	7.5

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL FRIDAY

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
at Yale	8	Dartmouth
at VMI	12	Western Carolina
at Richmond	3½	St. Bonaventure
at Seton Hall	6½	Creighton
Oakland	3½	at N. Kentucky
at Colorado State	2½	San Diego State
Toledo	9	at Ball State
at Fresno State	9	Nevada

NBA FRIDAY

FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG
at Indiana	Off	(Off)	Chicago
at Detroit	Off	(Off)	Boston
at Charlotte	4½	(Off)	Cleveland
at Toronto	Off	(Off)	Atlanta
at San Antonio	Off	(Off)	Houston
at Utah	1½	(Off)	Brooklyn
at Denver	2½	(Off)	New Orleans
at Portland	7½	(Off)	Okla. City
at Dallas	1	(Off)	Philadelphia

NFL SUPER BOWL LVI FEB. 13

FAVORITE	SP	O/U	UNDERDOG
LA Rams	4½	(48½)	at Cincinnati

SUPER BOWL MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Matthew Stafford, QB, L.A. rams	+110
Joe Burrow, QB, Cincinnati	+225
Cooper Kupp, WR, L.A. Rams	+600
Ja'Marr Chase, WT, Cincinnati	+2000
Aaron Donald, DL, L.A. Rams	+1000
Odell Beckham Jr., WR, L.A. Rams	+2500
Cam Akers, RB, L.A. Rams	+4000
Joe Mixon, RB, Cincinnati	+4000
Tee Higgins, WR, Cincinnati	+4000
Von Miller, LB., L.A. Rams	+4000
Sony Michel, RB, L.A. Rams	+7500
Kendall Blanton, TE, L.A. Rams	+7000
Tyler Higbee, TE, L.A. Rams	+8000
Van Jefferson, WR, L.A. Rams	+10000

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Florida	47	32	10	5	69	194	139
Tampa Bay	46	30	10	6	66	157	130
Toronto	42	29	10	3	61	153	112
Boston	43	26	14	3	55	131	120
Detroit	47	20	21	6	46	130	162
Buffalo	45	14	24	7	35	117	157
Ottawa	40	14	22	4	32	110	136
Montreal	44	8	29	7	23	99	172
METRO.	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Carolina	42	31	9	2	64	147	98
N.Y. Rangers	47	30	13	4	64	145	122
Pittsburgh	46	27	11	8	62	154	124
Washington	47	25	13	9	59	152	130
Columbus	43	20	22	1	41	136	159
N.Y. Islanders	39	16	17	6	38	93	105
Philadelphia	45	15	22	8	38	113	152
New Jersey	45	15	25	5	35	126	163

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Colorado	44	32	8	4	68	183	129
Nashville	46	28	14	4	60	144	125
Minnesota	41	28	10	3	59	161	120
St. Louis	44	26	13	5	57	153	121
Dallas	43	23	18	2	48	129	131
Winnipeg	42	18	17	7	43	120	128
Chicago	46	16	23	7	39	112	156
Arizona	45	11	30	4	26	99	169
PACIFIC	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Vegas	46	27	16	3	57	158	137
Los Angeles	47	24	16	7	55	136	130
Anaheim	48	23	16	9	55	141	137
Calgary	42	23	13	6	52	136	104
Edmonton	42	23	16	3	49	142	138
San Jose	46	22	20	4	48	126	142
Vancouver	46	20	20	6	46	115	126
Seattle	46	15	27	4	34	121	159

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY
All-Star break

ALL-STAR COMPETITIONS
T-Mobile ARENA, LAS VEGAS
Friday: Skills Challenge
-Fountain Face-Off
- Fastest Skater
- Save Streak
- Hardest Shot
- Breakaway Challenge
- Accuracy Shooting
Saturday: All-Star Game, 3 p.m.

MONDAY'S GAMES
Carolina at Toronto, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Ottawa, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Seattle 3, N.Y. Islanders 0
Edmonton 5, Washington 3
Los Angeles 5, Detroit 3
Calgary 4, Arizona 2
Minnesota 5, Chicago 0

NFL PLAYOFFS

SUPER BOWL LVI
Sunday, Feb. 13, at Sofi Stadium, Inglewood, Calif.
No. 4 L.A. Rams (15-5) vs.
No. 4 Cincinnati (13-7), 6:30 p.m.

PRO BOWL
Sunday at Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas, 3 p.m.

PLAYOFF TOP PERFORMERS
PASSING
404: Patrick Mahomes II, KC vs. PIT 1/16 (30-39, 5 TD)
378: Patrick Mahomes II, KC vs. BUF 1/23 (OT) (33-44, 3 TD)
366: Matthew Stafford, LAR at TB 1/23 (28-38, 2 TD)
348: Joe Burrow, CIN at TEN 1/22 (28-37, 0 TD)
337: Matthew Stafford, LAR vs. SF 1/30 (31-43, 2 TD)
329: Josh Allen, BUF at KC 1/23 (OT) (27-37, 4 TD)
329: Tom Brady, TB vs. LAR 1/23 (30-54, 1 TD)
310: Derek Carr, LAS at CIN 1/15 (29-54, 1 TD)
308: Josh Allen, BUF vs. NE 1/15 (21-25, 5 TD)
RUSHING
96: Elijah Miethcll, SFat DAL 1/16 (27 car., TD)
88: Joe Mixon, CIN at KC 1/30 (21 car., 0 TD)
83: Josh Jacobs, OAK at CIN 1/15 (13 car, 0 TD)
81: Devin Singletary, BUF vs. NE 1/15 (16 car, 2 TD)
72: Deebo Samuel, SF at DAL 1/16 (10 car, TD
RECEIVING
201: Gabriel Davis, BUF at KC 1/23 (OT) (8 rec., 4 TD)
183: Cooper Kupp, LAR at TB 1/23 (9 rec., 1 TD)
150: Tyreek Hill, KC vs. BUF 1/23 (OT) (11 rec., 1 TD)
142: Cooper Kupp, LAR vs. SF 1/30 (11 rec., 2 TD)
142: A.J. Brown, TEN vs. CIN 1/22 (5 rec., 1 TD)
129: Aaron Jones, GB vs. SF 1/22 (9 rec., 0 TD)

TEAM HIGHS, LOWS
MOST POINTS
47: Buffalo vs. New Engaldn 1-15
42: Kansas City vs. Buffalo 1-23(OT)
42: Kansas City vs. Pittsburg 1-16
FEWEST POINTS
10: Green Bay vs. San Francisco 1-22
11: Arizona at L.A. Rams 1-17
13: San Francisco at Green Bay 1-22
MOST TOTAL YARDS
552: Kansas City vs. Buffao 1-23(OT)
482: Buffalo vs. New England 1-15
478: Kansas City vs. Pittsburgh 1-16
FEWEST TOTAL YARDS
183: Arizona at L.A. Rams 1-17
MOST RUSHING YARDS
182: Kansas City vs. Buffalo 1-23 (OT)
174: Buffalo vs. New England 1-15
169: San Francisco at Dallas 1-16
MOST NET PASSING YARDS
372: Kansas City vs. Pittsburgh 1-16
370: Kanas City vs. Buffalo 1-23 (OT)
355: L.A. Rams at Tampa Bay 1-23
326: L.A. Rams vs. San Francisco 1-30
TTIMES SACKED BY OPPONENT
9, Cincinnati at Tennessee 1-22
PASSES HAD INTERCEPTED
3: Tennessee vs. Cincinnati 1-22
TURNOVERS
4: Tampa Bay vs. L.A. Rams 1-23
FIRST DOWNS
30: Kansas City vs. Buffalo 1-23 (OT)
OFFENSIVE PLAYS RUN
76: L.A. Rams vs. San Francisco 1-30
PENALTIES
14: Dallas vs. San Francisco 1-16
TIME OF POSSESSION
36:38: Kansas City vs. Buffalo 1-23 (OT)

TENNIS

ATP OPEN SUD DE FRANCE
At Palais des Sports de Gerland, Montpellier, France, Hardcourt indoor
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
#1 Alexander Zverev d. Mackenzie McDonald, 6-2, 7-6(5).
Damir Dzumhur d. #4 Nikoloz Basilashvili, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2.
Adrian Mannarino d. #8 David Goffin, 6-4, 6-2.
Richard Gasque d. Kwon Soon Woo, 7-5, 6-4.
Mikael Ymer d. #3 Gael Monfils, 6-1, 6-2

ATP CORDOBA OPEN
At Estadio Mario Alberto Kempee, Cordoba, Argentina,
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
Sebastian Baez d. #3 Cristian Garin, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1.
#4 Lorenzo Sonegod. Roberto Carballes Baena, 4-6, 7-6(1), 6-2.#6 Albert Ramos-Vinolasd.
Juan Pablo Varillas, 6-4, 2-3, ret.
Carlos Taberner vs. Alejandro Tabilo, late

ATP TAHA OPEN MAHARASHTRA
At Balewadi StadiumPune, India, Hardcourt outdoor
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
Elias Ymer d. #1 Aslan Karatsev, 6-2, 7-6(3).
#4 Jiri Vesely d. Bernabe Zapata Miralles, 6-3, 6-4.
#6 Emil Ruusuvuori d. Vit Kopriva, 6-3, 6-3.
#8 Stefano Travaglia d. Yuki Bhambri, 6-3, 6-2.

WINTER OLYMPICS

THURSDAY'S SCORES
ICE HOCKEY
Women, Preliminary Round

Group A	W	L	PT	GF	GA
Canada	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	0	0	0	0	0
ROC	0	0	0	0	0
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0
U.S.	0	0	0	0	0
Group B	**W**	**L**	**PT**	**GF**	**GA**
China	0	0	0	0	0
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY
Canada 12, Switzerland 1
Czech Republic 3, China 1
Japan 3, Sweden 1
U.S. 5, Finland 2
Sweden vs. Australia, late
Canada vs. Switzerland, late
Italy vs. Norway, late
Fri: Canada vs. Finland, 11:10p.m.

CURLING
Mixed Curling, Round Robin
China 6, Australia 5
Sweden 7, Czech Republic 4
Italy 8, U.S. 4
Britain 6, Canada 4
Italy 8, Switzerland 7(Extra Ends)
Norway 11, U.S. 6
Canada 7, Norway 6
Switzerland 8, Britain 7
Sweden 7, China 6
Czech Republic 8, Australia 2
FIGURE SKATING
Mixed Team, , Men's Short Program, Mixed Team, Qualification, Rhythm Dance, late.

U.S. 5, FINLAND 2

U.S.	2	2	1—5
Finland	0	0	2—2

FIRST: 1, U.S., Amanda Kessel (Savannah Harmon), 10:37. 2, U.S., Alex Carpenter (Kelly Pannek, Jincy Dunne), 13:00 (pp).
Penalties: Petra Nieminen, Fin (hooking); Hayley Scamurra, U.S. (illegal hit); Sanni Rantala, Fin (roughing).
SECOND: 3, U.S., Kendall Coyne Schofield (Cayla Barnes, Jesse Compher), 25:32. 4, U.S., Kendall Coyne Schofield (Savannah Harmon, Hilary Knight), 26:36.
Penalties: Tanja Niskanen, Fin (cross-checking).
THIRD: 5, Finland, Susanna Tapani (Nelli Laitinen, Petra Nieminen), 43:15 (pp). 6, U.S., Alex Carpenter (Abby Roque, Amanda Kessel), 48:01. 7, Finland, Susanna Tapani, 57:40 (pp).
Penalties: Michelle Karvinen, Fin (hooking); Hayley Scamurra, U.S. (delay of game); Hannah Brandt, U.S. (slashing).
SHOTS: Fin 5-2-5—12. U.S. 14-19-19—52.
GOALIES: Fin, Meeri Raisanen, Anni Keisala. U.S., Nicole Hensley, Maddie Rooney.
Referee: Kelly Cooke, U.S.. Lacey Senuk, Canada. Alex Clarke, Canada. Sara Strong, U.S.

FRIDAY'S EVENTS
FIGURE SKATING
Mixed Team, Qualification, Pairs' Short Program, 1a.m.
CURLING
Mixed Curling, Round Robin
Czech Republic v Italy, 12:35a.m.
Sweden v USA, 12:35a.m.
Great Britain vs.Australia, 11:35a.m.
China vs. Canada, 11:35a.m.
Australia vs. Norway, 8:05p.m.
Switzerland v Sweden, 8:05p.m.

SOCCER

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Man City	23	18	3	2	55	14	57
Liverpool	22	14	6	2	58	19	48
Chelsea	24	13	8	3	48	18	47
Man United	22	11	5	6	36	30	38
West Ham	23	11	4	8	41	31	37
Arsenal	21	11	3	7	33	25	36
Tottenham	20	11	3	6	26	24	36
Wolverhampton	21	10	4	7	19	16	34
Brighton	22	6	12	4	23	23	30
Leicester	20	7	5	8	34	37	26
Aston Villa	21	8	2	11	28	32	26
Southampton	22	5	10	7	26	34	25
Crystal Palace	22	5	9	8	31	34	24
Brentford	23	6	5	12	26	38	23
Leeds	21	5	7	9	24	40	22
Everton	20	5	4	11	24	35	19
Norwich	22	4	4	14	13	45	16
Newcastle	21	2	9	10	21	43	15
Watford	20	4	2	14	23	40	14
Burnley	18	1	9	8	16	27	12

SATURDAY'S MATCH
Burnley vs. Watford, 1p.m.

TUESDAY'S MATCHES
West Ham vs. Watford, 2:45p.m.
Newcastle vs. Everton, 2:45p.m.
Burnley vs. Man United, 3p.m.

U.S. MEN'S SCHEDULE (1-2-0)
q-Feb. 2: U.S. 3, Honduras 0
q-March 24: at Mexico
q-March 27: vs. Panama at Orlando, Fla., 7 p.m.
q-March 30: at Costa Rica
q-World Cup qualifying

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
1. Auburn (21-1) did not play. Next: at Georgia, Saturday.
2. Gonzaga (17-2) at San Diego. Next: at BYU, Saturday.
3. UCLA (16-2) at #7 Arizona. Next: at Arizona State, Saturday.
4. Purdue (19-3) did not play. Next: vs. Michigan, Saturday.
5. Kentucky (18-4) did not play. Next: at Alabama, Saturday.
6. Houston (19-2) did not play. Next: at Cincinnati, Saturday.
7. Arizona (17-2) vs. #3 UCLA. Next: vs. #19 Southern Cal, Saturday.
8. Baylor (19-3) did not play. Next: at #10 Kansas, Saturday.
9. Duke (18-3) did not play. Next: at North Carolina, Saturday.
10. Kansas (18-3) did not play. Next: vs. #8 Baylor, Saturday.
11. Wisconsin (17-4) did not play. Next: vs. Penn State, Saturday.
12. Villanova (16-6) did not play. Next: vs. #17 UConn, Saturday.
13. Michigan State (17-4) did not play. Next: at Rutgers, Saturday.
14. Texas Tech (17-5) did not play. Next: at West Virginia, Saturday.
15. Providence (19-2) did not play. Next: at Georgetown, Sunday.
16. Ohio State (13-5) vs. Iowa, ppd. Next: vs. Maryland, Sunday.
17. UConn (15-5) did not play. Next: at #12 Villanova, Saturday.
18. Illinois (16-5) did not play. Next: at Indiana, Saturday.
19. Southern Cal (18-3) at Arizona State. Next: at #7 Arizona, Saturday.
20. Iowa State (16-6) did not play. Next: at #23 Texas, Saturday.
21. Xavier (16-5) did not play. Next: vs. DePaul, Saturday.
22. Tennessee (15-6) did not play. Next: at South Carolina, Saturday.
23. Texas (16-6) did not play. Next: vs. #20 Iowa State, Saturday.
24. Marquette (16-7) did not play. Next: vs. #17 UConn, Tuesday.
25. LSU (16-6) did not play. Next: at Vanderbilt, Saturday.

THURSDAY'S SCORES
SOUTH
Berea 64, Piedmont 62
Morehead St. 75, Tennessee Tech 68
MIDWEST
Cedarville 83, Kentucky Wesleyan 51
Liberty 66, Bellarmine 53
Ohio 81, E. Michigan 68

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
1. South Carolina (20-1) vs. Alabama. Next: at Kentucky, Thursday.
2. Stanford (16-3) at UCLA. Next: at USC, Sunday
3. NC State (20-3) beat Florida St. 68-48. Next: vs. #12 Georgia Tech, Monday.
4. Louisville (20-2) beat Clemson 93-71. Next: at Syracuse, Sunday.
5. Indiana (14-3) vs. Minnesota. Next: vs. Purdue, Sunday.
6. Michigan (19-2) at Illinois, ppd. Next: vs. #21 Iowa Sunday.
7. Tennessee (19-3) lost to Florida 84-59. Next: at #10 UConn, Sunday.
8. Arizona (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. #19 Oregon, Friday.
9. Baylor (15-5) did not play. Next: vs. #13 Texas, Friday.
10. UConn (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. Butler, Friday.
11. Iowa State (19-3) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma State, Saturday.
12. Georgia Tech (18-4) did not play. Next: at #3 NC State, Monday.
13. Texas (15-4) did not play. Next: at #9 Baylor, Friday.
14. Georgia (16-4) vs. Vanderbilt. Next: vs. Florida, Sunday.
15. LSU (18-4) did not play. Next: at Mississippi, Monday.
16. BYU (18-1) at Portland. Next: at Gonzaga, Saturday.
17. Maryland (16-6) beat Michigan St. 67-62. Next: vs. Nebraska, Sunday.
18. Oklahoma (19-3) did not play. Next: vs. West Virginia, Saturday.
19. Oregon (14-5) did not play. Next: at #8 Arizona, Friday.
20. Notre Dame (17-4) vs. Virginia Tech. Next: at Florida State, Sunday.
21. Iowa (14-5) at Wisconsin. Next: at #6 Michigan, Sunday.
22. Florida Gulf Coast (19-1) at Central Arkansas. Next: at Lipscomb, Saturday.
23. Ohio State (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. Rutgers, Monday.
24. North Carolina (16-4) at Wake Forest. Next: vs. Miami, Sunday.
2.5 Kansas State (16-6) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Tech, Saturday.

GOLF

LPGA DRIVE ON CHAMPIONSHIP
1st of 4 rounds,Crown Colony G&CC, Fort Myers, Fla., 6,592; Par 72

Marina Alex	34-31—65	-7
Nasa Hataoka	32-33—65	-7
Linnea Johansson	34-32—66	-6
Leona Maguire	32-34—66	-6
Patty Tavatanakit	33-33—66	-6
Charley Hull	34-33—67	-5
Bronte Law	33-34—67	-5
Maude-Aimee Leblanc	36-31—67	-5
Jeongeun Lee6	35-32—67	-5
Caroline Masson	34-33—67	-5
Madelene Sagstrom	32-35—67	-5
Brittany Altomare	34-34—68	-4
Yaeeun Hong	33-35—68	-4
Megan Khang	31-37—68	-4
Nanna Koerstz Madsen	36-32—68	-4
Stacy Lewis	33-35—68	-4
Xiyu Lin	34-34—68	-4
Giulia Molinaro	34-34—68	-4
Ryann O'Toole	36-32—68	-4
Su-Hyun Oh	34-34—68	-4
Hee Young Park	35-33—68	-4
Ana Belac	34-35—69	-3
Ally Ewing	31-38—69	-3
Alison Lee	34-35—69	-3
Pernilla Lindberg	33-36—69	-3
Anna Nordqvist	34-35—69	-3
Annie Park	37-32—69	-3
Sarah Schmelzel	35-34—69	-3
Sophia Schubert	36-33—69	-3
Marissa Steen	34-35—69	-3
Jasmine Suwannapura	35-34—69	-3
Lexi Thompson	36-33—69	-3
Dewi Weber	34-35—69	-3
Pajaree Anannarukarn	36-34—70	-2
Celine Boutier	34-36—70	-2
Jennifer Chang	37-33—70	-2
In Gee Chun	35-35—70	-2
Cydney Clanton	33-37—70	-2
Allisen Corpuz	35-35—70	-2
Austin Ernst	35-35—70	-2
Ayaka Furue	36-34—70	-2
Georgia Hall	34-36—70	-2
Cheyenne Knight	35-35—70	-2
Jeong Eun Lee	35-35—70	-2
Amy Olson	32-38—70	-2
Bianca Pagdanganan	34-36—70	-2
Inbee Park	34-36—70	-2
Rachel Rohanna Virgili	33-37—70	-2
Pauline Roussin-Bouchard	35-35—70	-2
Amy Yang	36-34—70	-2
Na Rin An	34-37—71	-1
Hye Jin Choi	35-36—71	-1
Isi Gabsa	38-33—71	-1
Brooke Henderson	37-34—71	-1
Cristie Kerr	36-35—71	-1
Andrea Lee	37-34—71	-1
Ruixin Liu	35-36—71	-1
Paula Reto	37-34—71	-1
Kelly Tan	33-38—71	-1
Atthaya Thitikul	36-35—71	-1
Lilia Vu	33-38—71	-1
Lindsey Weaver-Wright	36-35—71	-1

RAS AL KHAIMAH CHAMPIONSHIP
1st of 4 rounds, Al Hamra GC,Ras al Khaimah, U.A.E., 7,325 yards; Par 72

65 (-7)	
Sebastian Heisele	33-32
Scott Jamieson	32-33
66 (-6)	
Thomas Detry	33-33
David Law	33-33
Brandon Stone	32-34
Johannes Veerman	32-34
67 (-5)	
Nicolai Hojgaard	32-35
Matthew Southgate	33-34
68 (-4)	
George Coetzee	33-35
Daan Huizing	34-34
Masahiro Kawamura	34-34
Hurly Long	35-33
James Morrison	33-35
Shaun Norris	35-33
Matthieu Pavon	34-34
Tapio Pulkkanen	35-33
69 (-3)	
Maverick Antcliff	35-34
Marcus Armitage	34-35
Nacho Elvira	34-35
Grant Forrest	34-35
Alfredo Garcia-Heredia	34-35
Joachim B. Hansen	33-36
Padraig Harrington	32-37
Benjamin Hebert	34-35
Rasmus Hojgaard	36-33
Craig Howie	34-35
Matthew Jordan	36-33
Mikko Korhonen	36-33
Thriston Lawrence	35-34
Alexander Levy	34-35
Robert Macintyre	33-36
Marcel Schneider	34-35
Richard Sterne	32-37
Danny Willett	35-34
Jeff Winther	34-35
70 (-2)	
Oliver Bekker	36-34
John Catlin	35-35
Ross Fisher	34-36
Joakim Lagergren	35-35
Francesco Laporta	33-37
Adrian Meronk	35-35
Lukas Nemecz	34-36
Chris Wood	35-35
71 (-1)	
Nino Bertasio	36-35
Richard Bland	35-36
Steven Brown	36-35
Julien Brun	36-35
Jonathan Caldwell	37-34
Oliver Farr	38-33
Ryan Fox	36-35
Julien Guerrier	38-33
David Horsey	36-35
Richard Mansell	34-37
Tom McKibbin	35-36
Guido Migliozzi	34-37
Niklas Norgaard Moller	34-37
Adrian Otaegui	38-33
Yannik Paul	36-35
Kalle Samooja	36-35
Callum Shinkwin	34-37
Marcel Siem	37-34
Jordan L. Smith	38-33
Connor Syme	35-36
Sami Valimaki	32-39
Nicolai Von Dellingshausen	35-36
Justin Walters	37-34
Fabrizio Zanotti	36-35
72 (even)	
Alexander Bjork	35-37
Nicolas Colsaerts	36-36
Jamie Donaldson	36-36
David Drysdale	38-34
Darren Fichardt	37-35
Lorenzo Gagli	37-35
Maximilian Kieffer	37-35
Espen Kofstad	37-35
Zander Lombard	36-36
Edoardo Molinari	36-36
Thorbjorn Olesen	37-35
Andrea Pavan	36-36
Ricardo Santos	35-37
Dale Whitnell	38-34
Oliver Wilson	36-36

Rams coach Sean McVay and wide receiver Cooper Kupp get ready before the team's NFC championship game victory over the 49ers on Sunday. **MARK J. TERRILL/AP**

SUPER BOWL 56 RAMS

McVay, core 4 key to success

By Greg Beacham
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Andrew Whitworth still has the first voicemail he got from Sean McVay welcoming him to the Rams five years ago, and the left tackle plays it occasionally to tease his boss.

McVay had barely turned 31 at the time, and he had just become the NFL's youngest head coach — a title he still holds.

"He sounded pretty square on the voicemail, and a little cheesy," Whitworth said with a grin. "But he's not that. He's just so passionate sometimes. Once we finally got the chance to sit down and talk ball, it was like — sometimes you meet people and you're like, 'Man, we were destined to meet each other. We were destined to sit down.' We've been destined to be together and be around each other."

The offensive tackle and McVay didn't know it at the time, but they were also destined to sit down with wide receivers Robert Woods and Cooper Kupp and defensive lineman Aaron Donald for a ride to a remarkable future.

Their half-decade with the Rams has been the best time of their careers — five winning records, four playoff teams, three NFC West titles and two Super Bowl berths — largely because McVay and Whitworth quickly teamed up with two receivers who also arrived in early 2017 and a defensive tackle who was already here to form the core of a perennial winner.

While big names from Todd Gurley to Odell Beckham Jr. have come and gone on the Rams' high-profile roster, McVay has always been able to count on Whitworth, Woods, Kupp and Donald.

While the coach masterminds their moves, all four veterans are prolific contributors who rank among the most dependable players in the league at their positions.

They're the cornerstones of the Rams' success, and newcomers to the team immediately understand what they're standing upon.

"It comes from the top down, Coach McVay, the leaders on this team — Aaron Donald, Robert Woods, Cooper Kupp," midseason acquisition Von Miller said. "These guys have built something special, man, and it's an honor and a privilege to be a part of it."

The only thing preventing the Rams' core four from playing for a storybook ending in SoFi Stadium next weekend is Woods' season-ending knee injury.

It's particularly painful for Kupp, who missed the Rams' first Super Bowl trip together three years ago with his own torn knee ligament.

But Woods is watching the games in the stands next to Kupp's wife and family, and he cheered wildly for the Rams in the NFC title game. Afterward, he took the field and shared meaningful hugs with several teammates, including an emotional moment with Kupp, who won the NFL's receiving triple crown this season.

"It's a special thing having someone like Rob on your team, having someone like him as a friend," Kupp said. "What he means for this team, even when he's not able to be out there with us, it's a special thing. He's a very special person. I love Rob. He's going to be my brother for the rest of my life."

IN BRIEF

More calls for release of Washington report

News services

Former Washington Commanders employees and members of Congress pressured the NFL and Commissioner Roger Goodell on Thursday to release a report about the team's history of sexual harassment and its sexist, hostile workplace culture. They said the team and owner Dan Snyder haven't been held accountable for their misdeeds.

One of the six former employees who spoke before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform also came forward with a new allegation that she was sexually harassed by Snyder himself, which Snyder denied.

Complaints about the team's treatment of female employees first surfaced in 2020. Snyder commissioned an investigation that was taken over by the NFL. The probe led the league to fine the franchise $10 million, and Snyder temporarily ceded day-to-day operations of the team to his wife, Tanya.

But the league didn't release any details of the investigation's findings.

Baseball: Major League Baseball asked a federal mediator to intervene in stalled labor negotiations that likely will put off the start of spring training. On the 64th day of a lockout, MLB Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem asked for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to enter the dispute. The players' association must agree for the conciliation service to enter talks.

Golf: Tom Hoge fired an opening-round 9-under 63 at Pebble Beach Golf Links to take the lead at the Pebble Beach Pro-Am in Pebble Beach, California. Seamus Power shot a 64 at Spyglass Hill and was alone in second. ... Marina Alex and Nasa Hataoka shot opening-round 7-under 65s to share a one-stroke lead at the LPGA Drive On Championship in Fort Myers, Fla.

NHL: The Ducks hired Pat Verbeek as their new general manager. Verbeek, 57, who played nearly two decades in the NHL, spent the last three seasons as the Red Wings' assistant GM under Steve Yzerman.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Friday: vs. Butler (at Gampel), 7 p.m., SNY

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: at Villanova, noon, FOX

UCONN

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UConn's Crystal Dangerfield, from left, and Katie Lou Samuelson celebrate a 3-point basket by Gabby Williams during a regional semifinal against Duke on March 24, 2018, in Albany, N.Y. **FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP**

WNBA FREE AGENCY

Huskies on the move

Former UConn teammates Katie Lou Samuelson, Gabby Williams traded for each other, Bria Hartley headed to Indiana, Stefanie Dolson to New York

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

Multiple UConn Huskies-turned-WNBA-players are on the move as part of the WNBA's exciting 2022 free agency period.

Katie Lou Samuelson and Gabby Williams, former teammates in Storrs, were traded for each other. Samuelson, a Seattle Storm forward, is headed to the Los Angeles Sparks in exchange for Williams. The Sparks will also receive the No. 9 pick in the 2022 WNBA draft for the Storm.

Samuelson, who played at UConn from 2015-19, had the best season of her career in 2021. She earned a starting role in Seattle and averaged 7.0 points on 45.6% shooting (35.1% from 3), 3.5 rebounds and 1.7 assists in 21.0 minutes per game. Los Angeles will be her fourth WNBA team in four years. It will be essentially a homecoming for the Huntington Beach, California native. She was drafted fourth overall by the Chicago Sky in 2019 before playing with the Dallas Wings in 2020 and Storm in 2021.

"We're excited to add Katie Lou Samuelson to our team," Sparks general manager/head coach Derek Fisher said in a release. "In addition to her perimeter shooting, Katie Lou brings defensive versatility and length. She has great on-court instincts and we're excited to build with her moving forward."

Williams, who played at UConn from 2014-18, had a number of international commitments last summer, including playing for France in the Olympics. She missed the 2021 WNBA season after she was placed on the full-season suspended list by the Sky, the team she'd played for since she was drafted in 2018. That precluded Williams from suiting up at all in 2021, even once she was traded to the Sparks and signed a one-year contract extension through 2022. In 2020, Williams averaged 7.7 points (42.4% shooting), 4.0 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 1.3 steals per game.

"Gabby is a versatile player that brings a dynamic skill set to our team," Storm general manager Talisa Rhea said in a statement. "As we have watched her develop in the WNBA and excel internationally, we are thrilled she will be joining us in Seattle and believe she can have immediate impact on our roster."

"I couldn't be more excited to come to the WNBA this summer with the Seattle Storm," added Williams. "It feels great to know that I'll be joining a franchise with such an incredible culture. I have the opportunity to play with and learn from players who I consider to be some of the greatest of all time and I'm absolutely looking forward it."

The New York Liberty also made Stefanie Dolson's signing official on Thursday. According to Richard Cohen of Her Hoop Stats, Dolson's contract is fully protected for two years and is worth $160,000 each year.

Coming off a career summer where she won gold with the U.S Olympic 3x3 team and a championship with the Sky, Dolson now returns to her home state by signing with the Liberty. The Port Jervis, New York native averaged 7.5 points, 3.5 rebounds, and 1.3 assists per contest while shooting 48.6% from the field (40.4% from 3) in 2021.

"Playing in New York is a dream come true," said Dolson, who played for UConn from 2010-14. "It feels like now is the perfect time in my career to join the Liberty organization as we set our sights on becoming perennial contenders. Knowing that I'll have the support of my family and friends at Barclays Center makes this all the more special."

In other moves, the Phoenix Mercury, Sky and Indiana Fever announced a three-team trade Thursday that will move former UConn guard Bria Hartley from Phoenix, where she played the past two seasons, to Indiana.

Hartley, plus four draft picks across the next two drafts, are headed to Indiana. The Fever sent point guard Julie Allemand to Chicago, and Phoenix received All-Star guard Diamond DeShields from Chicago for a 2023 first-round draft pick.

"We are excited to welcome Bria's veteran presence to Indiana. She has proven to be a key contributor on multiple teams, including last year in helping Phoenix advance to the WNBA Finals," Fever vice president of basketball operations and general manager Tamika Catchings said in a statement. "This trade allows us to secure more top-tier talent in this year's draft, and we also add more assets to control heading into 2023."

Hartley is entering her ninth WNBA season. She returned midway through the 2021 campaign after a ACL injury abruptly ended her 2020 season, where she was averaging a career-best 14.6 points on 42.0% shooting (38.5% from 3) and 4.5 assists per game.

Fellow former Husky Tina Charles has also been linked to Phoenix. Reportedly, the Mercury's trade of Hartley was a way to open up cap space so they could afford the 2012 MVP.

Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Auriemma plans to be on sidelines vs. Butler

After missing Wednesday's game at Creighton, UConn women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma has returned to team activities and plans on coaching Friday when the Huskies take on Butler, the school announced Thursday.

"Geno Auriemma wasn't feeling well prior to the UConn women's basketball game at Creighton last night and chose not to coach out of an abundance of caution. It was not COVID related," the school said in a statement. "Auriemma is feeling well today and returned to coaching the Huskies at practice this afternoon. He intends to return to the sideline for UConn's game vs. Butler Friday."

Longtime associate head coach Chris Dailey took over as acting head coach and improved to 13-0 with the Huskies' 76-56 win over the Bluejays. Dailey did not elaborate on Auriemma's condition, but said it was a normal day until he started to not feel well just before tipoff.

"If he was watching it, he probably wasn't feeling well for awhile either," she told SNY. "He said he'd feel better if we won."

UConn has two home games coming up this weekend: Friday versus one-win Butler and Sunday versus No. 7 Tennessee.

— Alexa Philippou

UConn

from Page 1

Huskies (14-4, 9-0 Big East) haven't always had, including when Paige Bueckers was still healthy early in the season. And that doesn't even feature the impact that graduate student Dorka Juhász, who SNY reported will miss a third consecutive game Friday with a foot injury but plans to play Sunday, is capable of making.

With so many players not only able to score, but excel in their respective roles, UConn will no doubt be better off by the time Bueckers returns. The Huskies' next opportunity to fortify that sort of identity comes Friday when they host Butler (1-17, 0-9) at Gampel Pavilion. Coach Geno Auriemma, who missed Wednesday's game when he didn't feel well before tipoff, intends to be on the sidelines for the game, according to the school.

Butler has lost five straight since last facing UConn Jan. 12, a 92-47 Huskies victory. Its sole win of the season came against Evansville.

Here's what else you need to know about the matchup:

The basics

Site: Storrs
Time: 7 p.m.
Series: UConn leads, 3-0
Last meeting: No. 10 UConn 92, Butler 47, Jan. 12, 2022, in Indianapolis
TV: SNY (Allen Bestwick, Meg Culmo, Maria Marino)
Stream: In-market SNY viewers with access to the network can watch via the NBC Sports app: http://stream.nbcsports.com/rsn/sny. Out-of-market viewers can watch on the Fox Sports App or at https://www.foxsports.com/ as well as on the FOX Now app or at www.fox.com/sports. The games might not appear on those sites until right around tipoff.
Radio: UConn IMG Sports Network on 97.9 ESPN (Bob Joyce, Debbie Fiske)

Butler probable starters, sixth man

Zoe Jackson, G, 5-7, Fr.; Celena Taborn, F, 6-3, Gr.; Emilia Sexton, G, 5-4, Sr.; Kate Tanner, F, 6-2, R-Fr.; Tenley Dowell, G, 6-0, R-So.; Trinity White, G, 5-9, Fr.; G, 5-9, Fr.

UConn probable starters, sixth man

Olivia Nelson-Ododa, F, 6-5, Sr.; Christyn Williams, G, 5-11, Sr.; Nika Mühl, G, 5-10, So.; Caroline Ducharme, G, 6-2, Fr.; Aaliyah Edwards, F, 6-3, So.; Azzi Fudd, G, 5-11, Fr.

The matchup

UConn's offense: In the teams' first meeting, UConn's seniors and Ducharme led the way in scoring. The Huskies took season-high 34 3s. Williams has had her best of stretch of the season over the last five games, averaging 18.2 points but making her impact felt in other ways beyond her scoring.
UConn's defense: The Huskies' defense totally rattled Butler last month. UConn forced 27 turnovers, which it turned into 43 points, and had 24 fast-break points to Butler's zero.
Butler's offense: Because they turned the ball over so much, Butler took 26 fewer shots from the field than UConn in January. Taborn led the Bulldogs that day with 13 points, right around her team-high season average in scoring. The Bulldogs average 59.1 points per game.
Butler's defense: The Bulldogs allow 80.6 points per game, the worst in the country per Her Hoop Stats. The Huskies didn't shoot great from the arc against them (11 for 34), but did well on 2-pointers (59.5%).
UConn keys: Games where UConn has played 35-40 minutes of great basketball have been hard to come by this season, though its most complete games so far were against Butler and Xavier in early January. For UConn to achieve its long-term goals, it needs to cut down the bouts of inconsistency and sustain high-level play for longer periods. This was an issue against Creighton, and against a top-level opponent like Tennessee, it'll be even tougher to bounce back from lulls in play. The Huskies need to build good habits in this regard every chance they get, including Friday.
Players to watch: Mühl's defensive spark was a catalyst for the Huskies against Butler the first time around. Can she channel that same energy again?
About Butler's coach: Kurt Godlevske is in his eighth season. He was tabbed Big East coach of the year in 2018-19 when the Bulldogs went 23-10.
Butler's mascot: Butler Blue IV
Famous alumni: Former basketball coach Thad Matta, "Hoosiers" inspiration Bobby Plump, novelist Marguerite Young

Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com

Moguls

from Page 1

advance was Kai Owens, who was a scratch due to a nasty crash in training a few days earlier. She posted a picture on social media of her gruesomely swollen eye. Team officials said she was under medical evaluation, but could be cleared in time to compete Sunday.

Owens is the 17-year-old who's returning to the country where she was born. Abandoned at a town square in a province of China as an infant, she was taken to an orphanage and adopted at around 16 months by a couple from Colorado.

Thursday was supposed to be Owens' first official trip down an Olympic moguls course. Not the case for Kauf.

She was a top-ranked favorite heading into the Pyeongchang Games four years ago, but finished seventh. She felt the pressure — "mostly from myself," she said — and wound up disappointed.

"Just kind of expected a lot more but didn't do everything I had to there," she explained.

Kauf is the next generation of daredevils in her family. Her mother, Patti, won two titles on the World Pro Moguls Tour back in the day, and her dad, Scott, won five.

They've crisscrossed the globe to follow Jaelin's burgeoning career. That's not possible at these Games due to COVID, but that didn't mean they weren't close to her heart.

Before qualifying, Kauf opened a care package from home. In it, the gold necklace from mom with five diamonds to represent the Olympic rings. The middle contained a pearl. The accompanying note explained the significance of the pearl.

"Basically a pearl is made from grit and turned into something remarkable," said Kauf, who also received a silver necklace with the Olympic rings from her mom in 2018.

Kauf's teammate, Giaccio, was the first U.S. skier in the lineup, and she found it somewhat surreal.

"I saw on the run order today I'd be the one to kick it off for Team USA for the entire Games, so that was pretty cool," the first-time Olympian said. "It's really exciting to get to start off the Olympics on a high note, really."

With wispy flakes falling on the 0-degree (minus-18 Celsius) night, the course was fast and firm — no big surprises for the first burst of Olympic action on the mountain.

"It is exactly how you pictured an Olympic course would be — pristine, textbook," said Soar, who also was making her Olympic debut. "Every dimension, every mogul, every shape is just absolutely picturesque."

Notes

Mikael Kingsbury started his Olympic title defense in fine fashion with the top score in qualifying. The Canadian standout is attempting to become the second men's moguls skier to win back-to-back gold medals. Fellow Canadian Alexandre Bilodeau accomplished the feat in 2010 and '14. ... Americans Cole McDonald and Dylan Walczyk qualified for the final.

Safety Tip of the Day

During cold weather, use appropriate car seat covers or blankets to cover an infant in a car seat instead of a coat to avoid reducing the effectiveness of seat restraints.

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Big loss in US women's hockey win

Difficult as it was hearing Brianna Decker crying out in pain while laying prone on the ice, Kendall Coyne Schofield understood the U.S. women's hockey team still had a game to finish. After the Americans wrapped up their 5-2 win over Finland to open the Beijing Winter Olympics on Thursday, Schofield could verbalize what she felt when encountering Decker standing on crutches next to the bench. "I just told her, 'We got this,' " Schofield said. "No matter what she's a big part of this group. ... You saw that in our response after she went down, how much we picked up the game and took control." The Americans certainly had their veteran teammate's back after Decker was hurt while being tripped from behind by Ronja Savolainen 9:32 into the first period. The sight of the team's assistant captain and 11-year veteran unable to put weight on her left leg before being stretchered off provided a motivating spark to the defending Olympic gold medalists. Amanda Kessel and Alex Carpenter scored twice over the next 3 ½ minutes in the Group A match. Schofield then put the win away with two goals in 64 seconds in the second. USA Hockey told ESPN that Decker will miss the rest of the tournament.

Lefty lashes out at PGA Tour 'greed'

Phil Mickelson claims the "obnoxious greed" of the PGA Tour and its ownership of media rights is why players are tempted by the prospects of rival tours, such as one backed by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, Golf Digest reported. Mickelson Bryson DeChambeau and Dustin Johnson are among 20 PGA Tour members who are playing in the Saudi International this week for exorbitant appearance money. The 51-year-old Mickelson, above, a 45-time winner on the PGA Tour and the reigning PGA champion, and DeChambeau have been the two most prominent players linked to talk of a "super league." Players such as Jon Rahm, Rory McIlroy, Brooks Koepka and Jordan Spieth have said they wouldn't be interested. In a news conference before the tournament, Mickelson said the competition was giving players leverage, and that the threat of a rival league had led the PGA Tour to create a $40 million Player Impact Program (which he says he won last year) and increases in prize money and FedEx Cup bonus money. He later said players not owning their media rights is what bothers him.

Pulisic responds to benching with goal

Christian Pulisic received startling news from Gregg Berhalter: The U.S. coach benched America's top player for what was essentially a must-win World Cup qualifier against Honduras. "Decisions like that are never easy," Berhalter said. "The pregame conversation with him was you're still going to affect the game, just in a different role. And we have to do what we felt was best for the team and also put Christian in the best possible position to make an impact." Pulisic scored the final goal in a 3-0 U.S. win Wednesday night with his second touch of the match in the 65th minute, just two minutes after entering. The Americans can clinch a return to the World Cup with four points from their final three matches — or with a victory over Panama on March 27 at Orlando, Florida, if Costa Rica doesn't sweep its remaining games. "It's my job to come in and make a difference, and I'm glad I did that," Pulisic said. Since becoming the first American to appear in and win a Champions League final, Pulisic has experienced a series of highs and lows that appeared to sap his confidence. He tested positive for COVID-19 after playing his first two matches of the season for Chelsea, sidelining him between Aug. 14 and Sept. 5 and causing him to miss the opening qualifier with the U.S. *—News services*

OLYMPICS PREVIEW

Spotlight shines bright on China

As Games open, world's focus set on good, bad and unknown

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

Friday's opening ceremony for the Beijing Winter Olympics will take place in the Bird's Nest, which was built for the 2008 Summer Games. **AP FILE**

BEIJING — Long before the global pandemic upended sports and the world in general, the 2022 Winter Olympics faced unsettling problems.

It started with the fact that hardly anybody wanted to host them.

Beijing ended up solving that problem, but only after four European cities thought about it and dropped out, mostly because of expense and lack of public support. In the end, it was a race between two authoritarian countries. The IOC narrowly chose China's capital and its mostly bone-dry surrounding mountains over a bid from Kazakhstan. "It really is a safe choice," IOC President Thomas Bach said after the balloting.

Some seven years after that fateful vote, the world will find out if Bach was right. Starting with Friday's opening ceremony at the lattice-ribboned Bird's Nest Stadium, the spotlight will be trained on China, a country with human-rights record that troubles many, an authoritarian government and a "zero-tolerance" policy when it comes to COVID. It will be trained on what figures to be the most closed-off, tightly controlled, hard-to-navigate Olympics in history.

The build-up has turned the idea of "making it to the Games" into as much of a logistical and sometimes moral conundrum as a competitive one.

"This is one where you can do your absolute best but you kind of have to juggle your sanity and being able to perform at the Olympics, and not lose your mind beforehand," U.S. moguls skier Hannah Soar said.

To be sure, if the 2 ½ weeks of skiing, skating and sliding turn out to be like most Olympics before it, then it will be the athletes such as Hannah Soar — and snowboarder Chloe Kim, skier Mikaela Shiffrin and Norway's cross-country skiing champion Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo, to name a few — that we'll remember most.

But there has been so much to process in the lead-up. And there's no pretending that the International Olympic Committee's decision to bring its biggest show to a country that is facing ever-increasing scorn from democracies in the West — a country that has been on a virtual lockdown since shortly after it sprouted the world's first cases of COVID-19 more than two years ago — doesn't bring with it some stark considerations:

■ Human Rights. Led by the United States, a number of Western democratic countries are staging a diplomatic boycott of the Games to protest what the U.S. and human-rights groups have called the genocide of some 1 million Uyghurs in China's far western Xinjiang province.

■ Dignitaries won't attend, but athletes still will. German slider Natalie Geisenberger was among those who considered not coming, but then decided to make the journey, along with some 2,900 athletes from around 90 countries. Her conclusion: "We athletes have absolutely nothing to do with the decision to award the Olympic Games to Beijing — the (IOC) decides and we athletes are presented with a fait accompli."

■ Health and safety. To try to prevent the spread of COVID, China will run these Olympics in a "closed-loop" system. All participants will be tested daily. None will be allowed out of the hotels and venues that are cordoned off from the city and mountains where the Games will take place.

Participants will be placed in isolation if they test positive, and the stakes of a system that hasn't been clearly spelled out to everyone were on display when Belgian skeleton racer Kim Meylemans turned to social media Thursday and gave a tearful explanation of her situation.

■ Tennis player Peng Shuai. Her plight touches on almost all the sore points involved in bringing these games to this country: The Chinese champion's safety has been in question since she accused a former high-ranking government official of sexually assaulting her. Some of the few signs that she might be OK have come courtesy of the IOC, which has shown pictures of Bach in video meetings with Peng, The IOC has indicated it will meet with Peng during the Olympics, but its previous meetings have brought forth as many questions as answers.

■ Cybersecurity. Many countries are advising their athletes to leave their cellphones and laptops home lest they be compromised by the Chinese government. Earlier this week, the head of the FBI in the U.S. said the Chinese government's hacking operations are "more brazen" than ever before.

■ Russia. President Vladimir Putin is expected to attend the opening ceremony in what some will view as an audacious bit of politicking on two fronts. With tensions escalating on the Ukraine border, this conjures memories of the 2014 Olympics in Putin's home country, during which Russia invaded and took over the Ukrainian territory of Crimea. It's also viewed by many as a slap in the face to anti-doping regulators who tried, without great success, to sanction the country for scandals of the past decade.

■ The environment. The mountains hosting action sports and cross-country skiing are about 150 miles from the Gobi Desert; they average less than a foot of snow a year. Though snowmaking is nothing new at Olympic venues, this is touted as the first Games to rely completely on artificial snow. To do it, the country had to build massive irrigations systems and will use up to 800 Olympic-sized swimming pools' worth of water. It brings into question Beijing's claims that these Games will be carbon neutral.

Oh, and about the sports — Norway is a decent bet to win the most medals, in part on the strength of a deep roster of biathletes and cross country skiers. Russia, officially called "Russian Olympic Committee" because of doping sanctions, could challenge. Its men's hockey team is favored after the NHL, with the omicron variant raging in North America, decided not to shut down its season to send players to the Olympics.

All in all, this is quite a different look for China from the last time the Olympics descended. That was in 2008, and the Summer Olympics were viewed as the world's chance to finally get to know a global behemoth.

More than attempting to put on a good face this time, China is doing things by its own rules. COVID restrictions offer a convenient justification for not letting journalists wander the country to report on what's really going on in this land of 1.4 billion.

"There are two audiences for this," said David Bachman, an expert on China who teaches at University of Washington. "There's the international audience. And it's also going to be important to impress their own people with how efficiently the Games are run."

Where Russia spent a record $51 billion on the 2014 Sochi Winter Games, and South Korea looked comparatively frugal by only spending $13 billion, part of China's pitch was that it wouldn't drop nearly that much on what will be the third straight Olympics held in Asia.

It's repurposing the opulent Bird's Nest, built for the 2008 Games, as the stage for its opening ceremony. It reclaimed an old steel mill to build a big air jumping stadium for skiers and snowboarders. Improvements in the mountains came thanks to the Olympics, and China is banking on a burst of new skiers and snowboarders to follow.

Beijing organizers have put out a budget of around $3.9 billion, but with no watchdogs tracking the money, the real cost is anyone's guess. One estimate said the true cost could be as much as 10 times that original budget.

The money goes for what the IOC touts as a much-needed 17-day break from strife and politics — a break that allows a worldwide audience to revel in the glow of athletic accomplishment. NBC, for one, pays billions to pipe the action to the United States. But this year, its big-name commentators will be back home, calling the action remotely.

It's one of hundreds of concessions made to the virus that first cropped up in China some 26 months ago, and has slapped an indelible imprint on the way the country must run these Games.

Time will tell if all the trouble was worth it. The main reason American snowboarder Jamie Anderson decided to come: "At least for this one time in life," she said, "the world comes together over sports."

PREDICTIONS: Who wins gold in key events?

ALPINE SKIING
Men's downhill
Aleksander Aamodt Kilde, Norway
Women
Lara Gut-Behrami, Switzerland
Slalom
Men
Clément Noël, France
Women
Mikaela Shiffrin, United States
FIGURE SKATING
Men
Nathan Chen, United States
Women
Kamila Valieva, ROC
Pairs
Anastasia Mishina and Aleksandr Galliamov, ROC
Dance
Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron, France
Team
ROC
FREESTYLE SKIING
Moguls
Men
Mikael Kingsbury, Canada
Women
Perrine Laffont, France
HOCKEY
Men
Canada
Women
Canada
SHORT TRACK SPEEDSKATING
1,000
Men
Hwang Daeheon, South Korea
Women
Suzanne Schulting, Netherlands
SNOWBOARDING
Big Air
Men
Max Parrot, Canada
Women
Anna Gasser, Austria
— AP

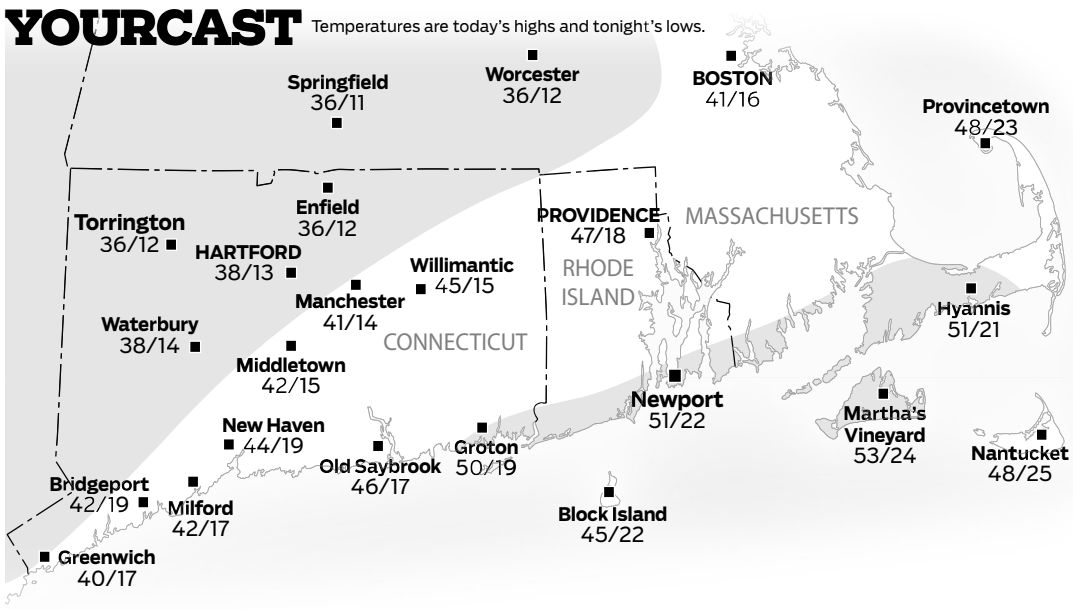
WEATHER

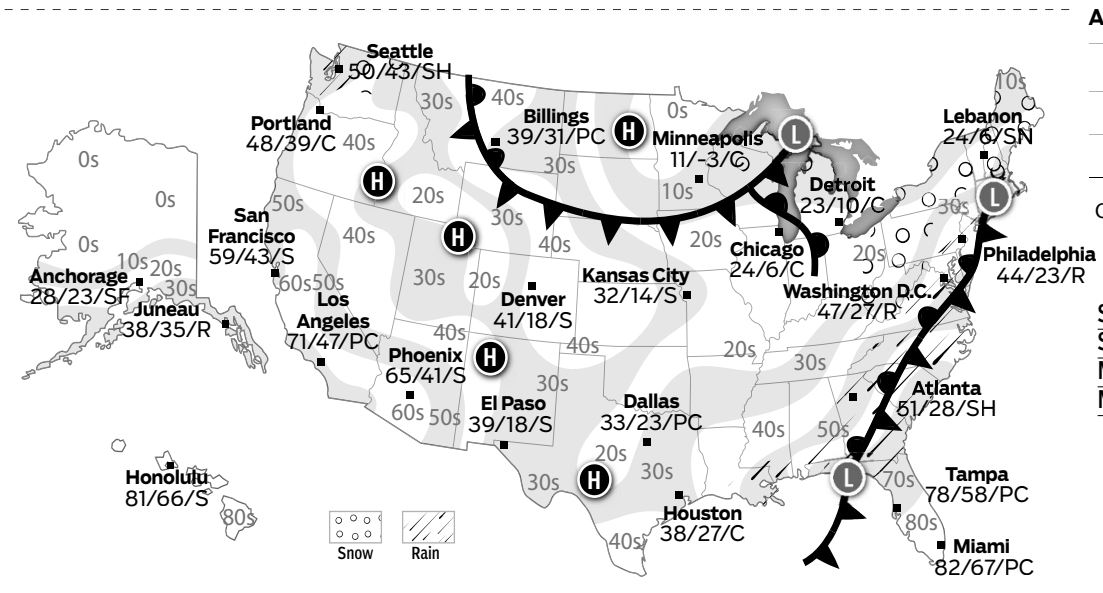
FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Rain and freezing rain turning to freezing rain and possible sleet. North wind at 10 to 15 mph. Falling temperatures.	Partly sunny early, mostly sunny, breezy and cold.	Sunny and very chilly.	Mostly cloudy and very cool.	Partly sunny and very cool.
HIGH 38°	HIGH 24°	HIGH 30°	HIGH 39°	HIGH 39°
LOW 13°	LOW 2°	LOW 16°	LOW 21°	LOW 22°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER
For the latest weather news throughout your day.
courant.com/weather

YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.





OUTLOOK

A Winter Weather Advisory is in effect across the state on Friday until the late afternoon and early evening. Rain and areas of freezing rain this morning will be turning to freezing rain, sleet, and snow in Litchfield County, while the rest of the state will turn to freezing rain and some areas of sleet. Temperatures will be dropping throughout the day. The high temperatures for the day occurred in the predawn hours. Ice accumulations will generally be between a tenth and a quarter of an inch. Partial clearing is expected tonight in the western half of the state, it will be cloudy in eastern areas.

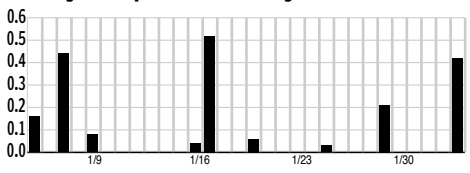
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.42	0.11
Month to date	0.42	0.32
Total this year	2.25	3.60
Snowfall In Inches		
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.6
Total this year	18.4	28.1

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	11:34 a.m. p.m.	5:43 a.m. 6:11 p.m.	38°
Saybrook Jetty	12:24 a.m. 12:45 p.m.	6:36 a.m. 7:04 p.m.	35°
Connecticut River at Portland	3:07 a.m. 3:28 p.m.	10:22 a.m. 10:50 p.m.	
Madison	12:48 a.m. 1:08 p.m.	6:55 a.m. 7:20 p.m.	34°
New Haven	1:08 a.m. 1:28 p.m.	7:19 a.m. 7:44 p.m.	34°
Stamford	1:12 a.m. 1:42 p.m.	7:34 a.m. 7:58 p.m.	35°

River Stage at Hartford: 3.53 feet at 7:30 p.m.

Boating	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B. I. Sound
Weather	Rain	Rain	Rain
Wind	W/N, 10-15	SW/N, 10-20	SW/N, 10-20
Seas	1-3 ft.	2-3 ft.	4-7 ft.

Air Quality Forecast For Today

Air Quality Today	Ultraviolet Index Today	Wind Chill Today
Good 17	Low 0	22°

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	7:00 a.m.	6:59 a.m.
Sunset	5:09 p.m.	5:10 p.m.
Moonrise	9:13 a.m.	9:36 a.m.
Moonset	9:15 p.m.	10:21 p.m.

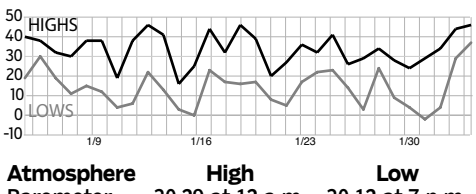
Moon Phase

First	Full	Last	New
Feb 8	Feb 16	Feb 23	Mar 2

Temperature	High	Low
Thursday	46 at 1:40 p.m	37 at 3:51 a.m
Normal for date	36	19
Record for date	61 in 1991	-9 in 1961
A year ago	36	28
Range this year	52	-2

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - Feb 3	3151	3460	3172

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.29 at 12 a.m.	30.12 at 7 p.m.
Dew point	44° at 4 p.m.	36° at 12 a.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND			
Bangor	17	3	SN
Burlington	15	0	SN
Caribou	11	-2	SN
Concord	23	10	SN
Montpelier	17	-3	SN
Mt. Wash.	19	-5	SN
Portland	22	11	SN
Woods Hole	48	21	R

NATION			
Albany	22	5	SN
Albuquerque	36	16	S
Atlantic City	47	22	R
Baltimore	42	21	R
Bismarck	11	7	PC
Boise	34	17	PC
Buffalo	19	8	SF
Charleston	76	47	SH
Cincinnati	27	12	SF
Cleveland	23	9	C
Indianapolis	25	8	C
Jacksonville	80	47	PC
Las Vegas	58	36	S
Miami Beach	77	69	PC
Milwaukee	20	9	C
Nashville	34	19	SF
New Orleans	41	33	SH
New York	42	20	R
Okla. City	36	15	S
Omaha	27	14	PC
Orlando	83	59	PC
Pittsburgh	26	12	SN
Raleigh	70	35	R
St. Louis	28	10	PC
Salt Lake City	35	22	PC
San Antonio	38	25	PC
San Diego	68	47	S
San Juan	80	72	R
Tucson	59	38	S

WORLD			
Amsterdam	48	36	R
Athens	54	37	S
Bangkok	86	72	T
Barbados	83	70	S
Beijing	34	21	S
Beirut	57	52	SH
Berlin	48	37	C
Bermuda	70	63	PC
Budapest	49	37	C
Buenos Aires	84	68	T
Cairo	62	51	C
Cancun	84	70	PC
Dubai	81	59	PC
Dublin	43	42	PC
Edinburgh	42	36	PC
Helsinki	34	28	C
Hong Kong	63	54	PC
Istanbul	43	36	C
Jerusalem	48	39	SH
Johannesburg	73	59	T
Kingston	90	75	S
Lisbon	63	48	PC
London	48	36	SH
Madrid	63	45	C
Mexico City	59	46	C
Milan	50	34	SH
Montreal	12	9	SN
Moscow	23	9	SN
Nassau	77	61	PC
New Delhi	64	46	SH
Paris	52	37	R
Prague	48	36	C
Rio de Janeiro	84	73	R
Rome	59	46	C
Seoul	30	12	S
Singapore	93	75	T
Stockholm	38	30	SH
Sydney	77	66	SH
Tel Aviv	58	52	SH
Tokyo	48	34	C
Toronto	16	0	PC
Vancouver	46	37	R
Warsaw	37	36	SH

KEY: **S** Sunny, **C** Cloudy, **PC** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **SH** Showers, **SN** Snow, **SF** Snow Flurries, **T** T-storms

Weather page produced by WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY Weather Center

WEDNESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

NCCC
BOLTON 62, EAST WINDSOR 59
BOLTON (4-10): Mason Fox 0-2-2, Trevor Buchanan 13-9-39, Colby Marsh 1-0-2, Cal Bulley 4-0-9, Matt Godek 3-0-6, Michael McBride 2-0-4. Totals 23-11-62.
EAST WINDSOR (1-10): Ryan Lee 9-0-25, Josh Maddox 4-1-11, Eric Wyse 0-3-3, Justin Rodriguez 7-2-17, Juelz Torres 1-1-3. Totals 21-7-59.

B	11	18	22	11 —	62
EW	14	12	19	14 —	59

Others
VALLEY REGIONAL 51, WETHERSFIELD 49
WETHERSFIELD (3-11): Robert Rivera 7-0-18, Jack Freitas 3-1-7, Jomar Feliciano 3-2-8, Thomas Daly 1-0-3, Andrew Knapp 6-1-13. Totals 20-4-49.
VALLEY REGIONAL (8-7): Di'Angelo Jean-Pierre 2-1-5, Simon Partyka 5-2-12, Andrew Yermenson 1-0-2, Sam Hutchinson 3-1-7, James Marsden 7-1-19, Brayden Shea 2-2-6. Totals 20-7-51.

W	11	17	16	5 —	49
VR	12	17	6	16 —	51

Note: Valley overcame a 9-point 4th-quarter deficit to win. Partyka hit the go-ahead basket with 14.9 seconds left and had 5assists, 3rebounds, 3steals. Jean-Pierre had 9assists, 3steals.
MANCHESTER 76, CHENEY TECH 53
MANCHESTER (10-5): Laquonne Thames 6-2-17, Damian Sanchez 8-4-22, Vinny Cavallo 1-0-2, Jared Lindstrom 4-0-8, Arlon Poteat 5-0-10, Jayden Cersosimo 5-2-14, Jermaine Robinson 1-1-3. Totals 30-9-76.
CHENEY TECH (7-5): Kymani Thomas 3-0-9, Xavier McCall 3-0-6, Damnic Gittens 4-2-11, Omar Rios 6-0-13, Kelvin Rios 1-1-3, Justin Szrenja 2-0-5, Dazhaun Copeland 3-0-6. Totals 22-3-53.

M	14	25	19	18 —	76
CT	20	15	10	8 —	53

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CCC-Inter
BRISTOL EASTERN 59, HALL 47
HALL (3-9): Talia Sortman 2-3-7, Meghan Murray 1-0-2, Rylan Priest 3-2-8, McKenzie Mandyck 6-2-18, Julia Zydanowicz 2-0-5, Abigail Magendantz 3-0-6, Genevieve Nelson 0-1-1. Totals 17-8-47.
BRISTOL EASTERN (): Taigan Parent 2-1-6, Vanessa Drury 1-0-2, Ciara Collins 16-4-38, Leah Roy 0-1-1, Janessa Gonzalez 4-2-10, Lauren Ayotte 1-0-2. Totals 24-8-59.

H	11	13	14	9 —	47
BE	15	17	17	10 —	59

Others
SHA 50, WINDSOR 29
SHA (14-1): Emma Kirck 2-2-6, Carina Ciamel 1-2-4, Gianna Pye 2-2-6, Rosa Rizzitelli 7-1-16, Sydney Rosacci 2-0-4, Loren Thompson 2-0-5, Meg Kirck 3-0-9. Totals 19-7-50.
WINDSOR (8-5): Ayanna Franks 2-4-8, Hailey Rivera 1-0-2, Mikaela Williams 3-0-6, Summer Riley 2-0-4, Janet Woodard 3-0-7, Fordyn Bay-Kent 1-0-2. Totals 12-4-29.

S	17	16	10	7 —	50
W	7	11	6	5 —	29

Note: Franks had 8rebounds, 4steals.
WINDHAM TECH 49, PARISH HILL 36
WINDHAM TECH (13-4): Claudia Koiva 7-5-20, Caitlin Ferris 4-1-9, Bailey Miller 4-0-8, Julia Phouangphiarith 2-1-5, Megan Campbell 1-0-3, Grace Smith 1-0-2, Makenzie Branstine 1-0-2. Totals 20-7-49.
PARISH HILL (12-4): Kristie Zator 6-7-20, Ashlyn Kemp 3-0-6, Lexi Smardon 2-0-4, Kaelyn Pearl 1-0-2, Charley Bennett 1-0-2, Grace Quinn 1-0-2. Totals 14-7-36.

WT	19	9	10	11 —	49
PH	10	9	7	10 —	36

BOYS HOCKEY

CCC-South
HALL 3, ROCKY HILL CO-OP 2

RH	1	1	0	—	2
H	0	1	2	—	3

Goals: H—Owen Miller (2), Ethan Stagg **RH—**Dominick Violette (2). **Saves: H—**Aeden Mallet, 21 **RH—**Aaron McLeod, 27. Rec.: **H—**5-5 **RH—**5-7.

NEWINGTON CO-OP 4, ENFIELD CO-OP 1

E	1	0	0	—	1
N	0	3	1	—	4

Goals: N—Harrison Ranger (2), Gavyn Munson, Jack Petronio; **E—**Logan Santy. **Saves: N—**Jeremy Wagner, 14; **E—**Nick Morell, 25. Rec.: **N—**11-2; **E—**4-7.

WRESTLING

CCC-South
BERLIN 65, PLATT 12

CCC-Inter
CONARD 52, SOUTH WINDSOR 24
TOLLAND 12, CONARD 0
HALL 60, NEWINGTON 24

NCCC
STAFFORD 54, GRANBY 23

ECC
BACON ACADEMY 48, PUTNAM 28

FRIDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

ALL GAMES AT 6:45 P.M. UNLESS NOTED

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-**South:** Berlin at Bristol Central
CCC-**Inter:** Conard at Tolland, 6p.m.; East Hartford at Windsor; Rocky Hill at Bristol Eastern
NCCC: East Windsor at Bolton; Stafford at Somers; Windsor Locks at Rockville; Canton at HMTCA; Suffield at SMSA; East Granby at Ellington; Coventry at Granby, 7p.m.
Shoreline: Old Saybrook at Coginchaug, 7p.m.; East Hampton at Valley Regional, 7p.m.; Portland at Old Lyme, 7p.m.; Hale-Ray at Westbrook, 7p.m.; North Branford at Haddam-Killingworth, 7p.m.; Morgan at Cromwell, 7p.m.
CTC: Prince Tech at Goodwin Tech, 5:30p.m.; Vinal Tech at Cheney Tech, 6:30p.m.; Windham Tech at Ellis Tech, 6:30p.m.; Wilcox Tech at O'Brien Tech, 7 p.m.
CRAL: Capital Prep at Weaver, 6p.m.; Achievement First at MLC, 7p.m.; Innovation at Classical, 7p.m.
SCC: Lyman Hall at Shelton, 6p.m.; Cheshire at Career, 7p.m.
ECC: Griswold at Windham, 7p.m.
NVL: St. Paul at Naugatuck, 7p.m.
Others: Bloomfield at Aerospace, 7p.m.; East Catholic at Bassick, 7p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CCC-**South:** Lewis Mills at Plainville; Bristol Central at Maloney
CCC-**Inter:** Tolland at Platt, 5:15p.m.; Bristol Eastern at Newington, 6p.m.; East Hartford at Glastonbury; Windsor at E.O. Smith; South Windsor at Rocky Hill; RHAM at Southington; Manchester at Hall; New Britain at Avon; Berlin at East Catholic; Bloomfield at Conard
NCCC: Bolton at East Windsor, 5p.m.; SMSA at Suffield, 5:30p.m.; HMTCA at Canton, 5:30p.m.; Rockville at Windsor Locks; Ellington at East Granby; Somers at Stafford; Granby at Coventry
Shoreline: Westbrook at Hale-Ray, 6p.m.; Coginchaug at Old Saybrook, 7p.m.; Haddam-Killingworth at North Branford, 7p.m.; Old Lyme at Portland, 7 p.m.; Cromwell at Morgan, 7p.m.
CTC: Goodwin Tech at Prince Tech, 4p.m.; Ellis Tech at Windham Tech, 5:30p.m.; Cheney Tech at Vinal Tech, 5:30p.m.
CRAL: Capital Prep at Civic Leadership, 3:30p.m.; Classical at Achievement First, 5:30p.m.
SCC: Cheshire at West Haven, 6p.m.; Guilford at Sheehan, 7p.m.; Mercy at Amity, 7p.m.
ECC: Bacon Academy at Ledyard, 6p.m.; Windham at Stonington, 7p.m.
Others: Innovation at Wolcott Tech, 4:30p.m.; Weaver at Hartford Public, 5:30p.m.

BOYS HOCKEY

CCC-**South:** Hall at Southington co-op, 6:10p.m.; Enfield co-op at Northeastern, 8:10p.m.
NHC: Woodstock Academy at SGWL, 8:20p.m.

GIRLS HOCKEY

CCC: Suffield co-op at East Catholic co-op, 8:30p.m.
Others: Hand co-op at Masuk co-op, 4p.m.; Avon co-op at Woodstock Academy, 6p.m.

WRESTLING

Others: New Britain, Rocky Hill, St. Paul at Avon, 4 p.m.; Farmington, Maloney at Pomperaug, 4:30p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

SCC: SCC Championship (Floyd Little AC, New Haven), 4p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

CCC-**South:** Lewis Mills at Berlin, 3:45p.m.; Platt/Maloney at Middletown, 4p.m.
CCC-**East:** Enfield at East Hartford, 3:45p.m.; Manchester/RHAM at Glastonbury, 3:45p.m.; South Windsor at Windsor, 4p.m.;
CCC-**Inter:** Southington at Plainville, 4p.m.; E.O. Smith/Tolland at Bristol co-op, 4p.m.; Northwest Catholic at Hartford Public, 4p.m.; Newington at Simsbury, 8p.m.
SCC: Cheshire at North Haven co-op, 4p.m.; Hand at Fairfield Prep, 7p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Shoreline: Haddam-Killingworth co-op at Valley Regional, 7p.m.
Others: NFA at Old Lyme, 3p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE COLLEGE RESULT

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UCONN 76, CREIGHTON 56

THURSDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

WAGNER AT CENTRAL, LATE
SACRED HEART AT LIU, LATE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CENTRAL AT WAGNER, LATE
MARIST AT QUINNIPIAC, LATE
LIU AT SACRED HEART, LATE
NIAGARA AT FAIRFIELD, LATE

FRIDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Dartmouth at Yale, 5p.m.
Trinity at Tufts, 7p.m.
Quinnipiac at St. Peter's, 7p.m.
Fairfield at Monmouth, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Yale at Dartmouth, 6p.m.
Butler at UConn (Gampel), 7p.m.
Tufts at Trinity, 7p.m.
Williams at Wesleyan, 7p.m.

MEN'S HOCKEY

Providence at UConn, 7p.m.
Trinity at Middlebury, 7p.m.
Wesleyan at Williams, 7p.m.
St. Lawrence at Yale, 7p.m.
Union at Quinnipiac, 7p.m.
Sacred Heart at Holy Cross, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

LIU at Sacred Heart, 4p.m.
Yale at Rensselaer, 6p.m.
Quinnipiac at Clarkson, 6p.m.
UConn at Boston University, 7p.m.
Middlebury at Trinity, 7p.m.
Williams at Wesleyan, 7p.m.

WRESTLING

Trinity at Castleton, 7p.m.

MEN'S SQUASH

NESCAC **Championship—**First Round
Hamilton at Wesleyan, 6p.m.
Conn. College vs. Middlebury (at Trinity), 6p.m.

LATE WEDNESDAY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Westbrook point guard moves closer to joining her mother in 1,000-point club

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to a production error page 6 of The Courant sports section, which included a portion of the Westbrook vs. Hale-Ray girls basketball game, did not appear in Thursday's editions. Here is the complete story:

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

WESTBROOK — Sue Sacco understood exactly what her daughter, Jami, was going through Wednesday night with her 1,000th point for the Westbrook High girls basketball team in sight.

Sue went through the same thing. She scored 1,000 points for Westbrook in 1986, her senior year.

"Oh yeah, I remember we were away at Old Lyme," Sue said. "I was missing layups; it was ridiculous. It's hard. I can empathize with her for sure."

Jami, a senior point guard who averages 18 points per game, needed 20 against winless Hale-Ray in a Shoreline Conference game. She finished with nine, but after Westbrook trailed in the first half, the Purple Knights won, 41-25.

"I just felt bad for her because I know she was in her head thinking about it," Sue said. "But we're happy they got the win. That's the main thing."

It's not known how many mother-daughter duos have scored 1,000 points at the same high school in Connecticut but it's not common.

When Sue, then Sue McKenna, reached her milestone, Westbrook had won 62 straight games from 1984-86 and she finished her senior year with four Class S titles.

Sue went on to play for the University of Hartford. She met Steve Sacco, who played at Old Saybrook High with Vin Baker, playing at the local YMCA (where she still plays).

Jami was philosophical after the game. After all, Westbrook (7-8) has five more regular-season games.

"It's just a lot of pressure," Jami said. "I've been working for the 1,000 points from my freshman year until now. This was a big night, there was a big student section, a lot of stomping of feet. The shots just weren't falling, that's just how it goes. You just got to make up for it on other aspects of the court — rebounding, steals, everything.

"The game gives you what the game gives you. You just got to make adjustments."

Jami leads the team in all statistical categories, averaging nine rebounds, four assists and two steals. Wednesday, she had two blocks in the first half.

"Tonight, they had a box and one, triangle and two on her and that's what she sees almost every single night," Westbrook coach Sean Donadio said. "So it's not the easiest thing when you're the center of attention. She's going to get [the 1,000 points], but she would rather have the win, so after halftime to bounce back like that is more important to her."

Westbrook trailed Hale-Ray 11-9 at halftime. In the third quarter, Sadie Susi scored the first eight points in a 14-0 Westbrook run, capped by Sacco's first field goal of the night, a layup off a steal to give Westbrook a 25-13 lead with 4:05 left in the quarter.

Sue was talking about how hard it was to reach the milestone before the game.

"It was in the back of my mind and I remember missing, missing, missing — you just want to get it over with," Sue said. "I always tell her too — we didn't have 3-point shots back then."

Asked about her mom's influence, Jami laughed.

"Oh yeah, Sue McKenna, back in the roaring 80s ..." Jami said to her mother. "Every year, you won a state title, I believe. Basketball runs in the family."